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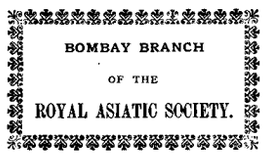

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PURULIA
RANCHI
HAZÁRIBÁGH
MANBHUM
PARGANÁS
DALTONGANJ
PALAMAU
SHAHABAD
PATNA
GAYA
MONGHYR
BHAGALPUR
DARBHANGA
MUZAFFARPUR
CHAPRA
SARAN
CHAMPARAN
MOTIHARI
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BANKIPUR
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SUKHSAGAR
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PURNEA
JANGIPUR
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DIAMOND HARBOUR
KANKJOL
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JAMUI
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GODDA
DEOGHAR
RAMGARH
KARGANA
SONTHAL
PARGANAS
BARAKAR
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GANGES R.
KOSI R.
TEESTA R.
MAHANADI R.
BAGMATI R.
GANDAK R.
GOGRA R.
SON R.
KARMNASA R.
KOSI R.
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TISTA R.
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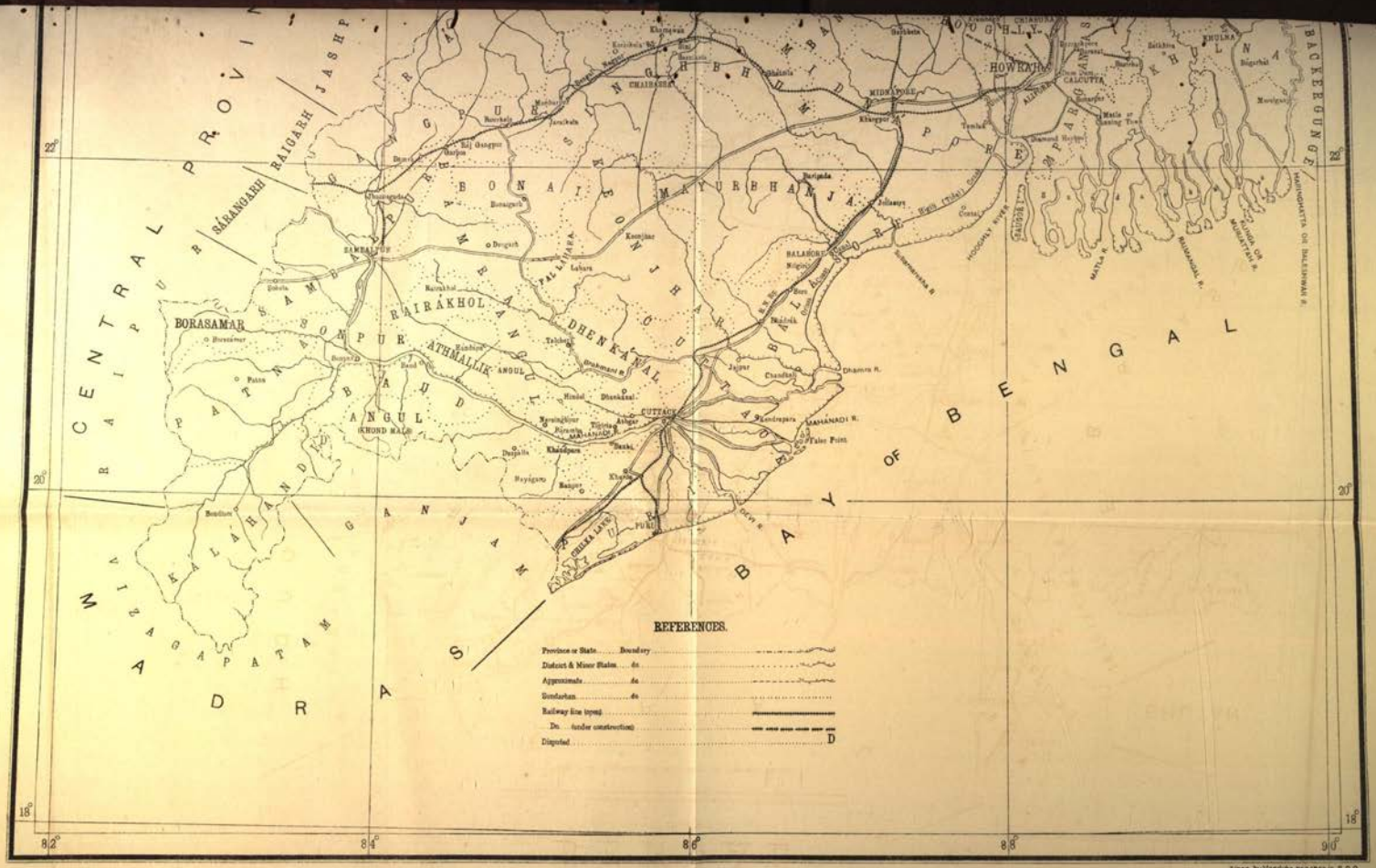

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1908-1909.

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GENERAL SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1908-1909.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

THE Hon'ble Sir Andrew Henderson Leith Fraser, K.C.S.I., on the expiration of his term of office as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was succeeded, on the afternoon of the 30th November 1908, by the Hon'ble Sir Edward Norman Baker, K.C.S.I. Change of Lieutenant-Governor.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DURING 1908-1909.

2. Darjeeling was the head-quarters of Government from the 1st May to the 6th July, and again from the 24th September to the 30th October. For the remainder of the year the head-quarters were at Calcutta. Head-quarters of Government.

Before leaving for the hills in April, Sir Andrew Fraser made an extended tour in the interior of the Feudatory States of Patna and Kalahandi.

3. In July His Honour visited Burdwan, where he laid the foundation stone of the Central Hospital which is to take the place of the Municipal and Rajbari Dispensaries of that station. From Burdwan a flying visit was paid to Pokhuria and Dhanbaid in the Manbhum district. Monsoon Tours.

Sir Andrew Fraser again left Calcutta early in August for Bankipore, where he halted for a week. From Bankipore His Honour travelled down the Ganges on the *Rhotas*, visiting *en route* Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Jangipur, Murshidabad, Berhampore and Navadwip. At Bhagalpur he laid the foundation stone of the Agricultural College at Sabaur.

In September His Honour visited Ranchi, where he laid the foundation stone of the Ranchi College and held a conference with the Jains on the question of leasing out sites for bungalows on Parasnath Hill.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor paid a short visit in November to Cuttack, where a Darbar was held to present new sanads to several Feudatory Chiefs of Orissa. Cold Season Tours.

5. Sir Edward Baker proceeded on his first tour in January through Bihar. At Bankipore he opened the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition and visited the Patna College, the Bihar School of Engineering and the Temple Medical School. From Bankipore His Honour

went to Muzaffarpur, and thence to Darbhanga, from which extended motor drives were undertaken to inspect the test works which were then in operation. On the conclusion of his inspections, the Lieutenant-Governor decided to declare famine in thanas Bahera and Roserha in the Sadar subdivision of Darbhanga.

In February His Honour toured through the Burdwan and Orissa Divisions, visiting Serampore, where the Government Weaving School was inspected, Chinsura, Burdwan, Suri, Asansol, Bankura, Cuttack and Puri.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Transfers of Deputy Magistrates.

6. Commissioners of Divisions were empowered, subject to submission of reports to Government, to transfer Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors (including Subdivisional Officers of that class) within their respective Divisions.

Redistribution of the Patna Division.

7. The Secretary of State having sanctioned the proposal to redistribute the Patna Division into two Commissioners' charges, a Division to be known as the Tirhut Division, comprising the districts of Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Champaran and Saran, which are situated north of the Ganges, and with its head-quarters at Muzaffarpur, was constituted on the 18th November 1908. The remaining districts of the old Patna Division, viz., Patna, Gaya and Shahabad, which lie south of the Ganges, form the present Patna Division.

Appointment of Sadar Subdivisional Officers.

8. The question of appointing officers to have charge of Sadar subdivisions was under the consideration of Government. Such appointments were made during the year in a few districts where local circumstances were suitable and the available staff sufficient. These appointments cannot, however, be made general until the cadre of the Indian Civil Service is increased.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Cooch Behar.

9. The administration of the Cooch Behar State continues to be conducted on improved lines.

States of Orissa.

10. The administration of the Orissa States during the year was satisfactory. Revised sanads were granted to 17 Feudatory Chiefs of Orissa of Group No. II, formerly called the Tributary Mahals of Orissa. Thirteen of the sanads were presented to the Chiefs by the Lieutenant-Governor at a Darbar held by him at Cuttack on the 17th November 1908.

Under the terms of the revised sanads higher criminal powers were granted to the Chiefs of Moharbhanj, Dhenkanal and Talcher, and to the highest administrative officers of the States of Keonjhar, Nayagarh and Gangpur.

The States of Bonai, Hindol, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Rairakhol and Keonjhar continued under Government management, while the State of Nilgiri was released.

A revision of the *takoli* or tribute of the five States of Group No. I (Patna, Kalahandi, Sonpur, Bamra and Rairakhol) was sanctioned during the year. It has been decided that the enhanced tribute shall remain in force for 30 years.

The proposed agreement between the Maharaja of Moharbhanj and the British Westinghouse Company, Limited, concerning the formation of a Joint-Stock Company for the purpose of generating and supplying electrical energy from the Barabalong river in the Moharbhanj State, has received the sanction of the Government of India.

The past year was throughout one of progress and also, during the latter half, of undoubted prosperity in the Orissa Feudatory States.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Prices. 11. The outstanding feature of the year was the poorness of the harvest, especially in Bihar, in consequence of the inadequacy and early cessation of the rains. All classes were affected by the scarcity which resulted. The prices of food-grains ruled high, but though wheat and gram became much dearer, the price of common rice was in most districts lower than in the preceding year. Several important branches of industry were depressed, and money was as scarce as food.

Wages. 12. Money wages of labour remained at the very high level of recent years, or exhibited a further upward tendency.

Health. 13. The early part of the year was exceedingly unhealthy. The high prices reacted upon the vitality of the people, and there was a further rise in the number of deaths to 38·56 per mille and a further fall in the number of births to 36·09. While plague was less severe than in any year since 1901, the climatic conditions of the year affected the supply of drinking water, and, combined with the deterioration in the general standard of health consequent on recourse to less suitable forms of food, induced a widespread epidemic of cholera with the highest mortality on record. Orissa and Chota Nagpur in which there was scarcity suffered most severely from cholera and bowel complaints. Fever again accounted for over 60 per cent. of the total number of deaths, but it is remarkable that very high mortality from this cause occurred mainly in districts which are not water-logged. Towards the close of the year there was a great improvement in the public health, which was particularly marked in Calcutta and in the area severely affected by scarcity.

Famine and Floods. 14. In consequence of the prolonged drought in 1907 which lasted till the middle of December, the districts of Nadia, Jessore, Angul, Hazaribagh and Ranchi were affected by scarcity, and in the beginning of July 1908 it was found necessary to declare famine in a portion of the district of Ranchi containing 2,261 square miles with a population of 237,000 persons. In Orissa fresh floods supervening on the floods and drought of 1907 rendered it impossible to close down gratuitous relief, which in Balasore continued till January, and in Puri on a small scale till May 1909.

The monsoon of 1908 also was unsatisfactory and ceased early. It was from the outset markedly weak and irregularly distributed in Bihar. There was no rain in the cold weather and, in many districts, no rain fell even during the *hathia* asterism when it is most indispensable in that part of the Province. The drought in Darbhanga and the north of Muzaffarpur and of Bhagalpur was the most severe and prolonged of recent years, and caused a failure of both the *bhadoi* and *aghani* crops,

as well as a lack of moisture in the soil which was ominous for the *rabi* crops, and eventually disastrous to them where irrigation was not available.

Distress was most acute in the vulnerable strip of country in these districts which extends along the Nepal frontier, although some charitable relief was also found necessary in the districts of Purnea and Palamau. In Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur the actual declaration of famine was averted by the energy and resource of the local officers, but in the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions of the district of Darbhanga, comprising an area of 2,571 square miles, with a population of 2,063,000 persons, the conditions were too severe to be dealt with by palliatives, and famine had to be declared.

The chief features of the recent relief operations were the stimulation of private works of lasting benefit by the grant on an extensive scale of land improvement loans, whereby a dangerous situation was relieved without resort to extensive and unremunerative direct relief operations, and by the liberal and timely distribution of agricultural loans. Where scarcity is not of extreme intensity, this method proves more economical, and at the same time more satisfactory than direct relief, as it enables the raiyat to preserve his self-respect and keeps him in condition to recommence cultivation as soon as climatic conditions become favourable.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Demand and Collections.

15. There was an expansion of Rs. 1,42,000 in the current demand of land revenue. The total collections, however, were adversely affected by deficient harvests and the dearness of food-grains, the percentage on total demand being the lowest in the last five years. Remissions and outstanding balances also exhibited a considerable increase.

Sale Law.

16. The sale law was administered as usual with leniency and moderation. Though defaults increased by 5,942, there was a decrease in the number of sales, the percentage of which on defaults fell from 7·6 to 4·4, mainly owing to the issue of instructions encouraging the exercise of discretion in granting exemption from sale in the case of default in estates owned by co-sharers.

Revenue and Rent Money-orders.

17. There was a considerable increase in the number of revenue money-orders, and in the amount of land revenue and cesses thus remitted. The system of remitting rent by money-order was introduced into the Chota Nagpur Division. There was a small decline in the number of rent money-orders, but a somewhat disquieting rise in the percentage of refusals by landlords to accept the amounts remitted.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

18. Road and Public Works cesses were levied, as usual, at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the thirty districts in which the Act is in force. Though there was a large increase both in current demand and total collections, the percentage of the latter on the former fell considerably, owing to suspension of collections in flood-affected areas

and to the decrease of voluntary payments occasioned by unfavourable agricultural conditions. Revaluation proceedings were in progress in fourteen districts.

Certificates.

19. Under the certificate procedure, there was a small increase in the number of institutions and a fall in the number of disposals. Proposals for the amendment of the Certificate Act are under consideration.

Land Registration.

20. New rules were issued providing for the creation in all districts where mutations are numerous of a separate staff to be employed exclusively on land registration work.

SURVEY.

Separate Survey Service for the Province.

21. A scheme which was submitted during the year for the creation of an independent Provincial Survey Department as a graded service with a Director at the head of it was sanctioned by the Government of India and the Secretary of State, with the exception of the proposal for the constitution of a separate graded service. It was decided instead that officers of the Provincial Executive Service and of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India shall be deputed to survey work in such numbers as may be necessary from time to time.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT.

Bill for the Maintenance of Land Records in Orissa.

22. In compliance with the orders of the Government of India, non-official opinion was obtained on the Orissa Maintenance of Records Bill. Mr. S. L. Maddox, I.C.S., who was deputed to make enquiries in connection with the law of landlord and tenant in Orissa, was at the same time asked to report on the provisions of this Bill after duly considering the opinions received; and after taking into account such alterations of the agrarian law as he recommends. His report has been received and is under the consideration of Government.

Settlement.

23. Settlement operations were in progress in fourteen districts. The year's programme was fully carried out, complete records being finally published for an area of 4,931 square miles, and rents fixed for 257,733 tenants. A record-of-rights has during the past 22 years been prepared for 44,007 out of 115,819 square miles in Bengal.

WASTE LANDS.

Leases of Waste Lands in the Sundarbans.

24. The system of granting to capitalists leases of waste lands in the Sundarbans was abandoned in 1904 in favour of reclamation by Government agency with a view to raiyatwari settlement. Financial considerations have, however, subsequently rendered it expedient that Government should relinquish direct reclamation, and a proposal to revert to some modification of the system of leases to large capitalists is under consideration.

GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

Administration of Khas Mahals.

25. The estates under direct management numbered 1,530 with a current demand of 29 lakhs. As usual, much attention was devoted to agricultural and sanitary improvements, the progress of education and the maintenance of roads and communications, and an expenditure of three lakhs of rupees was incurred on these objects.

WARDS AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Administration of Wards and Attached Estates.

26. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards rose to 209. The collections fell in sympathy with the failure of the crops, but otherwise the administration of the year followed a normal course in almost all the estates.

Amendment of the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act.

27. The Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, VI of 1876, was further amended by Act III (B.C.) of 1909, the leading provisions of which empower the Deputy Commissioner of a district to take charge of an important estate, or one in which the interests of the tenants demand that course, without the consent of the proprietor, when he is satisfied that the latter is dissipating his property by a course of reckless extravagance, and in certain cases to restrain a disqualified proprietor from alienating his property in any way, or creating any charge upon it extending beyond his own lifetime, after possession of it has been restored to him.

Loan to the Tagore Raj Estate.

28. With the sanction of the Government of India and the approval of the Secretary of State, a loan of Rs. 50,00,000 bearing interest at 4 per cent. was, in March 1908, advanced to Maharaja Sir Prodyot Coomar Tagore, Kt., of Pathuriaghata, Calcutta, to enable him to buy in the Patildaha estates, the property of the Tagore family, which had been mortgaged to a London syndicate and which, on the death of Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore, K.C.S.I., who had only a life interest in them, were about to pass into other hands. The estates have now been mortgaged to Government as security for the loan, and are to remain under the management of officers selected by Government until the loan is repaid in full.

Lease of Parasnath Hill in the District of Hazaribagh.

29. Parasnath Hill belongs to the zamindar of Palganj, whose property is managed by Government under the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act. With the opening of the East Indian Railway Grand Chord Line, its advantageous position as a sanitarium was recognised, and applications were received from Europeans and others for building-leases on certain portions of it. To the prospect of such an occupation the two sects of the Jain community vehemently objected on the plea that they regard the whole hill as sacred. After careful enquiry, Government came to the conclusion that their claims were exaggerated, but, in order that their religious susceptibilities might not be offended, it was decided to offer them a permanent lease of the whole hill, subject to all existing rights, at such a rent as would compensate the zamindar for the loss of prospective profits. The Digambari Jains were eventually selected to be lease-holders, and the Lieutenant-Governor has now ordered a survey and record-of-rights of the hill to be prepared under section 80, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, in order that all existing rights may be clearly defined.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Relations of Landlords and Tenants.

30. The Bengal Tenancy Act, which governs the relations of landlords and tenants in the Regulation Districts, with the exception of the Orissa Division, continued to work fairly satisfactorily. Relations between landlords and tenants were satisfactory in Orissa, peaceful in the Burdwan

and Presidency Divisions, but more or less strained in parts of the other Divisions. In some areas, the settlement operations tended to bring existing disputes to a head. An enquiry was made into the causes of agrarian disturbances in the Bettiah subdivision of the Champaran district, and the matter is still under the consideration of Government.

Rent Law in Orissa.

31. Mr. S. L. Maddox, I.C.S., was placed on special duty to enquire into the working of the sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act which have already been extended to Orissa, and to report whether it would be more expedient to extend the whole Act to that Division or to frame a special Tenancy Act for it. His report has been received and is under the consideration of Government.

Amendment of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

32. The Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act I (B.C.) of 1879, which, though it had been amended from time to time, had long been considered a defective and badly drafted enactment, was replaced on the statute book by Bengal Act VI of 1908. The legislation proposed in 1906 to amend and recast it was delayed by the necessity for detailed enquiry into agrarian conditions and for local conferences at which to ascertain the opinion of the classes concerned. The most important features of the new enactment are the introduction from the Bengal Tenancy Act of the principle of the settled raiyat, provisions for commutation of produce rents, and a definite prohibition against enhancement of the rent of occupancy raiyats by private contract. The Bengal Tenancy Act formed the basis of most of the amendments which were not framed specially to meet the peculiar local conditions of Chota Nagpur.

Extension of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act to the District of Manbhum.

33. When the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, was framed, it was contemplated that it should be extended to the district of Manbhum, and power to this effect was taken in clause (3) of section 1 of the Act. It was, however, considered inexpedient to extend the Act without first obtaining a full statement of the views of the landlords and tenants, and this the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division was asked to obtain. The question was still pending at the end of the year, but has since been settled.

The Sambalpur Delegation Bill.

34. A Bill to authorise the delegation to the Board of Revenue of certain of the statutory functions of the Lieutenant-Governor in Sambalpur was submitted to the Government of India. It has been passed into law since the close of the year.

Takavi Loans Rules.

35. During the year the rules under the Land Improvement Loans Act, XIX of 1883, and the Agriculturists' Loans Act, XII of 1884, were revised in accordance with the broad principles laid down by the Irrigation Commission and the Government of India. They apply to the whole Province, including the district of Sambalpur in which different rules framed by the Administration of the Central Provinces were formerly in force. The main features of the rules are the provision made for speedy disposal of applications for loans, and the great discretion allowed in postponing the collection of instalments of repayment, where good reason for its exercise exists.

Condition of the Sonthals outside the Sonthal Parganas.

36. Mr. M. C. McAlpin, I.C.S., was placed on deputation to enquire into the condition of the Sonthals resident in districts outside the Sonthal Parganas, amongst whom some amount of agrarian discontent had been reported, and to suggest what measures, if any, were necessary for their assistance. His report has been received and is under consideration.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

37. Nine Acts (Nos. I to VI of 1908 and I to III of 1909) were passed by the Bengal Council during the year. The most important were the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Act, and the Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Act, the leading provisions of which are set forth in the appropriate sections of this Summary. The other Acts are described in Part II of this Report.

POLICE.

Legislative proposal.

38. There was one legislative proposal affecting police administration. A Bill further to amend the Calcutta and the Suburban Police Acts of 1866 was prepared, the object of which was to confer on the Calcutta Police powers adequate to all emergencies by importing into the existing law, with the requisite modifications, certain provisions from the more comprehensive enactment (Bombay Act IV of 1902) which regulates the administration of the police in the City of Bombay. At the close of the year it was still under consideration.

Quartering of Punitive Police.

39. Additional police were quartered in the Bettiah subdivision of the district of Champaran in connection with the anti-indigo agitation in that subdivision, and in the Sadar subdivision of the district of Muzaffarpur with the object of discouraging unlawful endeavours to prevent the sacrifice of kine at the *Bakr-id* festival. For the preservation of the public peace, additional police were also quartered in the districts of Patna, Gaya and Khulna, and also in the 24-Parganas between the Dum-Dum and Barrackpore stations on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, owing to persistent outrages with explosives.

Service of processes through chaukidari establishment.

40. As the system of service of processes, other than processes for distraint and sale or for personal arrest, through the chaukidari establishment, which has been introduced as an experimental measure in the districts of Hooghly, Balasore, Muzaffarpur and Puri, has proved fairly successful, it was decided to give it a further trial in the same districts. It is hoped that, with increased experience of the system, an improvement in the service of processes will result.

Revision of ministerial establishments of the District and Railway Police.

41. The existing ministerial establishments of the District and Railway Police being inadequate, proposals calculated to improve them were formulated in consultation with the Inspector-General of Police and subsequently sanctioned by the Government of India. Police offices are now classified and staffed according to the amount of work in the English and vernacular departments, and the enrolled police have been released from clerical work altogether and replaced by clerks.

Introduction of the beat system in the town and suburbs of Calcutta.

42. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the proposals for the improvement of the system of police beats in Calcutta and its suburbs. The new system, which is being gradually introduced as funds permit, will, it is hoped, secure better police administration for the town and suburbs and serve as an effective check on burglaries, which up till now have been on the increase.

Employment of Biharis in the Police Department.

43. The Inspector-General of Police, who had been requested to make the necessary alterations in the rules for the recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Police, reported that he had arranged for the systematic recruitment of more Biharis, and that the rules would be revised in due course.

Anarchist Crime.

44. The year was remarkable for an outbreak of crime of a revolutionary or anarchic character. Early in May, Mrs. and Miss Kennedy were killed at Muzaffarpur by two young Bengalis with a bomb intended for Mr. Kingsford, the District and Sessions Judge. Arrests and searches made in connection with this murder in a garden at Maniktola on the outskirts of Calcutta, which had long been under observation, revealed the existence of a formidable conspiracy to overthrow the British Government. It was ascertained that this plot had ramifications all over India. Several persons implicated at Calcutta and Midnapore were on their trial before the Courts at the close of the year, and most of them have since been convicted. During the year there were three other successful and three unsuccessful attempts at political assassination, one of the latter being made by a Bengali student in Calcutta on the life of Sir Andrew Fraser. There were also several instances of dacoity committed by young men of respectable parentage, who were stimulated by pseudo-patriotic motives. On more than one occasion also, bombs were thrown at passenger trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway near Calcutta.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

45. The number of reported offences under the Indian Penal Code showed an increase on the figures for 1907. The increase occurred chiefly in the Presidency Town, and in the districts of Midnapore, Ranchi, Puri and Hazaribagh. The number of cases found to be false after trial or inquiry declined considerably. There was a substantial increase in the number of criminal cases disposed of by Magistrates in the mufassal, and a small decrease in the amount of work disposed of by the Magistrates of the Presidency Town other than the Municipal Magistrate. The appellate work of Magistrates exhibited a perceptible increase and their revisional work a slight decrease.

In the Courts of Session there was an appreciable increase both in the number of Sessions cases and in appellate work. Revisional work, however, decreased. In the High Court, likewise, an increase of appellate work and a decrease of revisional work were noticeable.

During the year 57 persons (47 in the 24-Parganas, 6 in the Presidency Town, 3 in Midnapore and 1 in Khulna), as compared with 13 in 1907, were under trial for offences against the State. Of this number 7 were convicted, 9 acquitted or discharged, 2 were hanged for the murder of the approver Norendra Nath Goswami, and 39 remained under trial at the close of the year. The most notable of the trials was the Alipore conspiracy case. In addition to these cases under the

Penal Code, 29 persons were under trial in Midnapore under the Explosives Substances Act (VI of 1908), of whom 26 were discharged and 3 remained under trial at the close of the year. In the Presidency Town one person was prosecuted under the Newspapers (Incitements to Offences) Act (VII of 1908) and was convicted, while there were 117 prosecutions under the Printing Press Act, of which 107 resulted in conviction.

JAILS.

Jails.

46. During the year there was a striking increase in the jail population. Not only did admissions increase from 78,891 in 1907 to over 101,000 in 1908, but the daily average number of prisoners rose from 15,275 to 16,853. In consequence of this increase, there was overcrowding in a large number of jails. The question of permanently increasing the capacity of the jails in the Province is under the consideration of Government. The Juvenile Jail at Alipore was opened during the year. It is intended exclusively for adolescent prisoners, and the opening of it marks another step in the separation of different classes of prisoners. The death-rate also rose from 17·5 per mille in the previous year, when it was the lowest on record in the Province, to 30·9 per mille. This regrettable increase was due mainly to the prevailing scarcity and the general unhealthiness of the year. The chief causes of mortality among the prisoners were tubercle of the lungs, dysentery and cholera. It is noteworthy that, in spite of the increase in the death-rate, the number of deaths from malaria again declined.

The number of offences committed by convicts rose from 25,734 in 1907 to 28,688. The decrease in the number of desertions of warders from 112 in 1907 to 41 in 1908 indicates that the improvement in their pay has enhanced the attractions of the service. The increase sanctioned in the pay of Jailors, Deputy Jailors and Assistant Jailors will doubtless lead to an increase in the efficiency of these officers also.

Proposals submitted by the Inspector-General of Prisons for radically improving the system of guarding prisoners are under consideration.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Calcutta High Court.

47. The number of original civil suits decided was 1,069, of which 117 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 317 decreed after contest, 258 decreed *ex-parte*, and the remainder disposed of in other ways. At the close of the year 958 suits, or 120 more than at the beginning of 1908, were undisposed of. The suits pending over one year, however, numbered only 236, as compared with 303 in 1907.

Subordinate Civil Courts.

48. The permanent Judicial Staff in the District Courts was increased by the addition of one District Judge consequent upon the creation of a separate Judgeship for the district of Khulna.

The most marked feature of the year was a further decline in the number of original suits instituted in the Subordinate Civil Courts. The decrease occurred in each class of suits, the institutions of title suits, suits for money and rent suits exhibiting a falling off of 7·1, 2·4 and 1·4 per cent. respectively. It was most marked in Saran, Cuttack, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Darbhanga. Excluding Jessore and Khulna, which, when forming one Judgeship, occupied in previous years the first

place in regard to the number of institutions, the largest number of suits (41,054) was instituted in the district of the 24-Parganas. The aggregate value of suits instituted amounted to Rs. 8,35,50,652, a sum which exceeds by 84¾ lakhs the total for 1907. The increase is attributable chiefly to the institution of several title suits of exceptionally high value in Darbhanga. There was an improvement in the duration of contested cases tried under the ordinary procedure by District Judges and Munsifs, while the duration of such cases in the Courts of Sub-Judges exhibits little variation from the preceding year.

Though the number of suits instituted decreased, the number disposed of also decreased and the number pending at the close of the year was 74,662, compared with 69,899 in 1907.

In the Calcutta Small Cause Court 24,452 suits were decided, of which 19,516 were uncontested. Less expedition in disposal of contested suits was attained in this Court than is desirable.

Though the volume of appellate work which came before the Subordinate Courts was in excess of the previous year, the number of disposals was also in excess and kept pace with institutions.

The number of Courts inspected by District Judges was slightly larger than in the preceding year. Ten District Courts were inspected or visited by Judges of the High Court.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

49. Two new offices were opened, one at Banki in the district of Cuttack, and the other at Soro in the district of Balasore. The reorganization of the Registration Department has now been completed in almost all its details.

Revised rules for the appointment of Sub-Registrars in the Registration Department were published during the year. In future such appointments will ordinarily be made on the nomination of Commissioners of Divisions.

There was a considerable increase in the number of registrations of documents affecting immoveable property, moveable property and wills, and also in income and expenditure, but the net profits of the Department remained practically stationary.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

50. Sanction was accorded, with effect from the 1st April 1908, to the relief of the Howrah Municipality and the other district municipalities in which such charges were still levied, from all liabilities imposed upon them in respect of police establishments and buildings, and in respect of the supply of oil for lanterns for the police employed within their jurisdiction.

The sanction of the Government of India was obtained to the introduction of a Bill to repeal the Howrah and Suburban Municipal Police Act, 1884 (Bengal Act IV of 1884), and it was subsequently enacted as Bengal Act IV of 1908.

Calcutta Municipality.

51. The general sanction of the Secretary of State was received during the year to the scheme for the improvement of the congested areas in Calcutta, and a Draft Bill giving effect to the proposals, as

approved by the Secretary of State, was prepared and submitted to the Government of India. It has since been referred back by the Government of India for the reconsideration of various points, and after discussion of these, has again been submitted to the Supreme Government.

Amendment of the Local Self-Government Act.

52. The Bengal Local Self-Government Act (III of 1885) was amended by Bengal Act V of 1908. The more important changes are briefly set forth below. Power was taken to extend the Act to the districts of Singhbhum and the Sonthal Parganas, should that course hereafter appear desirable. A considerable delegation of powers to Commissioners of Divisions was effected in respect of appointment, removal and resignation of members, election of Chairmen of Local Boards, and sanctioning of various rules and bye-laws. Power was taken to levy tolls on bridges, and the diversion of the road cess to purposes other than those enumerated in section 109 of the Cess Act, 1880, was prohibited. The application of the District Fund was at the same time extended in various directions. Under the head of education, contributions were permitted to secondary and other schools under private management and towards the maintenance of hostels, and the constitution of an education committee was enjoined., In respect of medical work, authority was given to District Boards to train and employ compounders, midwives and veterinary practitioners while for the furtherance of sanitation, District Boards, unless specially exempted, were required to appoint sanitation committees and qualified sanitary inspectors. The scope of the expenditure permissible upon veterinary work was greatly extended, and finally changes were introduced which will, it is hoped, extend the sphere of action and usefulness of union committees, which are in future to work in direct subordination to the District Board, unless, with the Commissioner's sanction, the District Board desires that they should be controlled by a Local Board.

Amendment of the Puri Lodging-house Act.

53. The Puri Lodging-house Act was amended during the year by Act III (B.C.) of 1908, with the objects of providing greater safeguards against the overcrowding of lodging-houses, of facilitating inspection, and of removing various defects which the practical working of the Act had disclosed. The town of Dantan was withdrawn from the operation of the Act with effect from the 1st November 1908.

MARINE.

The Port of Calcutta. Pilot Service.

54. The strength of the Pilot Service was 54 Pilots and 15 Leadsmen Apprentices, compared with 52 and 16 at the close of 1907-1908. One Licensed Branch Pilot retired, one Leadsman Apprentice was removed from the service for incompetency and another owing to bad health, while four Leadsmen Apprentices were recruited from England.

The pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 13,88,898 against Rs. 13,49,151 in 1907-1908. One thousand six hundred and forty-two vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,241,062 entered the port, while 1,636 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,228,336 left the port.

Four Special Courts of Enquiry were held in connection with casualties to vessels.

Calcutta Shipping Office.

55. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 85,005 and the expenditure to Rs. 45,280. There was an increase in the shipments and discharges under European articles. This is

attributable to some extent to the preference displayed for Chinese seamen. The discharges under Indian articles also showed an increase, which was due to the large number of vessels which arrived from outports and discharged their crews at the Shipping Office.

Calcutta Port Trust.

56. The income of the Trust amounted to Rs. 1,20,16,630 against Rs. 1,09,57,142 in 1907-1908, and the expenditure to Rs. 1,19,78,134. The surplus of Rs. 38,496 was, however, reduced to Rs. 23,796 by the net result of transactions for the year 1907-1908 brought to account in 1908-1909. There was also a profit of Rs. 4,617 on transactions in the securities held by the Trust. By the addition of these two sums to the revenue balance on the 1st April 1908, the Revenue Account closed with a credit balance of Rs. 30,60,423.

The net balances at credit of (1) the Sinking Fund, (2) the Depreciation Fund and (3) the Fire Insurance Fund, have risen to Rs. 77,02,067, Rs. 5,10,156 and Rs. 7,09,616 respectively.

In connection with the general improvement of the Port of Calcutta, extensive areas of land were under acquisition in Garden Reach and its vicinity.

Howrah Bridge.

57. The income in connection with Howrah Bridge amounted to Rs. 2,24,769 and was Rs. 5,484 less than the expenditure.

The Ports of Orissa.

58. The receipts of the Orissa ports amounted to Rs. 8,917, but as this sum included a Government contribution of Rs. 2,980 to meet the deficit of 1907-1908, the net receipts were only Rs. 5,937, as compared with Rs. 6,522 in 1907-1908. The expenditure fell from Rs. 17,732 to Rs. 17,432. There was thus a net deficit of Rs. 11,495, which was met by a contribution from Provincial Revenues.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Smoke-nuisance Commission.

59. The Chief Inspector and the Assistant Inspector of Smoke-nuisances made 3,657 observations of smoke emission from chimneys, and 2,210 inspections of furnaces. The average emission of dense black smoke has been reduced to less than one-sixth of the average three years ago. Eighteen prosecutions for infringement of the provisions of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905, were undertaken and convictions obtained in each case. One hundred and twenty-seven electro-motors, 2 oil-motors and one suction-gas motor were installed during the year.

Steam Boiler Commission.

60. Of the 4,599 boilers on the registers, 4,058 were inspected and certified during the year, an increase of 380 on 1907-1908. The remaining 541 boilers were not inspected or certified, as they were out of use either permanently or temporarily.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural Department.

61. The six agricultural stations, the Tasar Farm at Chaibassa, and the Kalimpong Farm to which a subsidy is paid, did satisfactory

work during the year. Experiments with jute, sugarcane, rice and potatoes were attended with successful results. Flax did well in Bihar under a European expert, but experiments with cotton were unsuccessful. Useful work continued to be done by the various Agricultural Associations. The dissemination of agricultural knowledge among intelligent cultivators was carried on by distributing vernacular leaflets and by giving lantern lectures at the Exhibitions and Fairs.

Bengal Agricultural Service.

62. The question of the organization of the Provincial Agricultural Service was still under consideration. The deputation of students to America has been discontinued, as the supply was likely to exceed the immediate demand, and as it is doubtful whether training under American conditions is altogether suitable for this country. The Agricultural College buildings at Sabaur are nearing completion and will be ready to receive students in November 1910.

Sericulture.

63. The work of the silk-rearing establishment made satisfactory progress. The old Silk Committee consisting of non-official members was abolished and was replaced by a new one with four silk experts as members and the Director of Agriculture as president. A mulberry farm with a central seed-rearing nursery has been established at Berhampore, and several model nurseries at silk-rearing centres in Murshidabad, Birbhum and Midnapore.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

64. The societies, which are of the Raiffeisen type, exhibited a steady advance in number, membership, and capital, and in the development of the co-operative spirit. Their suitability to Indian conditions has now been established. But if the movement is to develop beyond the very definite limits of an official experiment, it is essential both that the public whose active assistance, except in a few notable cases, has been disappointingly slight, should fully realise the possibilities for good possessed by it, and that a satisfactory system of organization and control should be evolved. It has now been decided to aim at federation into unions on a joint-stock basis, and accordingly groups of societies were, during the year, combined into self-administered unions with encouraging results.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

65. The distribution of the rainfall was unfavourable. It was defective in April and May. The monsoon set in about the middle of June and heavy rain fell in South-West Bengal, but elsewhere the fall was below the normal. In July and August there was excessive rain in South-West Bengal and Orissa, while it was in defect in Bihar. In the first week of October the rainfall was general, but thereafter drought prevailed. All the crops suffered considerably, and the estimated outturn of the *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi* harvests was only 65, 72 and 67 per cent. of a normal crop, respectively. The areas sown were also somewhat below the average owing to the insufficient rain in Bihar.

HORTICULTURE.

Cinchona.

66. To secure a larger output of quinine in future years, so as to meet the increasing demand for the drug, proposals were submitted to the Government of India for the expansion of the cinchona plantations in Bengal. The eventual output of quinine from the plantations, if the scheme for expansion was adopted in full, was estimated at 50,000 lbs. a year, in comparison with a present output of about 20,000 lbs., but the Government of India desired that more gradual progress should be made. In the meantime, in order to keep pace with the growing demand for quinine, the bark produced on the Government plantations is largely supplemented by purchase in the open market of bark grown in Java.

FORESTS.

Re-organization of the Imperial and Provincial Forest Services.

67. The re-organization of the Imperial and Provincial Forest Services of the Province was sanctioned during the year. The strength of the Imperial Service was maintained at 11 officers, while that of the Provincial Service was raised from 10 to 11 by the addition of one appointment of Extra Deputy Conservator.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Industries and Mines.

68. There was a slight advance in the outturn of tea, but the outturn of jute fell by half. Among the important manufacturing industries, cotton was practically stationary, but jute maintained its record of steady progress. Indigo exhibited a further decline, and the sugar manufacturing industry in the Tirhut Division was far from flourishing. The coal industry was exceedingly prosperous. The number of mines at work in 1908 increased from 372 to 458, and the output of the Jherria and Burdwan coal-fields by $1\frac{1}{3}$ million tons. Towards the end of the year, however, a period of serious and prolonged adversity was imminent. There was a notable increase in the production of manganese ore, but a further fall in the output of mica and of iron ore.

THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.

Number of Factories.

69. The number of factories increased during the year from 204 to 219. They provided employment for a daily average of 301,727 operatives, compared with 293,490 in the previous year.

Inspection of Factories and Health of Operatives.

70. An Assistant Special Inspector of Factories was appointed in February 1908 for a period of six months, and officiated for the Special Inspector when he proceeded on leave in May. In January 1909 a separate Special Inspector was appointed for the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Inspections were generally useful. The sanitary arrangements of factories are steadily improving. Managers, as a rule, recognise that in their own interests a strict regard for sanitary conditions is necessary. The health of the operatives was, on the whole, good throughout the year, and no outbreak of disease in epidemic form is reported.

TRADE.

Foreign Trade.

71. The value of the sea-borne trade of the Province (merchandise only) in 1908-1909 was 110·64 crores, a decline of 12·05 crores or nearly 9·8 per cent. on the figures of 1907-1908. Of this total, the share of Calcutta amounted to 110·48 crores against 122·56 crores in the preceding year. The figures reflect the general stringency of trade during the year and the insufficiency and bad distribution of the rains.

Imports.

72. Imports into Calcutta aggregated 44·24 crores, the contraction being 15·9 per cent. Of the seven classes, (viz., I.—Animals, living, II.—Articles of food and drink, III.—Metals and manufactures of metals, IV.—Chemicals, drugs, etc., V.—Oils, VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles, VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured), into which articles are grouped for statistical purposes, the second class was the only one marked by an increase. Yarns and textile fabrics, the leading group in class VII, contributed, as in previous years, the largest sum towards the aggregate of the year. The heavy decline in this group, amounting to 7·47 crores, alone constituted 89 per cent. of the total decrease in imports. Metals and manufactures of metals came next in point of value, and formed 26·5 per cent. of the imports. Of the items which make up this class, machinery was the only important one which exhibited an increase. Articles of food and drink held the third place in point of value with 16·3 per cent., to which sugar, with a total of 4·62 crores, contributed 65·0 per cent. The proportions of the other classes, namely, V, IV, VI and I, were 3·9, 2·3, 0·9 and 0·2 per cent. respectively. Of the total imports, 69·2 per cent. came from the United Kingdom against 74·6 per cent. in 1907-1908. The shares of the other principal contributing countries were:—Java 9·3, Belgium 3·5, Germany 3·4, the United States of America 3, Austria-Hungary 1·7 and Japan 1·1 per cent.

Exports.

73. The total value of exports from the Province was 66·4 crores, a decline of 3·66 crores or 5·2 per cent. Jute continued to be the dominant staple of the export trade, of which it constituted 49 per cent. Hides and skins, grain and pulse, tea, opium, lac and oil-seeds, were other items the trade in each of which exceeded a crore of rupees, but only the first two exhibited increased values. The United Kingdom was the best customer, taking 25·4 per cent. of the exports; the United States held the second place with 16·7 per cent., and Germany was again third with 11·3 per cent.

Trans-frontier Trade.

74. The value of the trans-frontier trade of Bengal in merchandise only was 379 lakhs, an increase of 3·5 per cent. Of the entire trade of the year, some 90 per cent. was trade with Nepal, while the shares of Sikkim, Tibet and Bhutan were 4·, 6· and ·1 per cent. respectively. The total trade with Nepal rose from 324 lakhs to 336 lakhs. Imports did not maintain the expansion noticed last year, less rice and other food grains being available for export owing to the scarcity in that country. Exports on the other hand advanced from 94 lakhs to 108 lakhs, cotton yarns and fabrics, other rain crops, brass and copper, and tobacco being chiefly responsible for the increase. The total trade with Tibet showed a small improvement. Raw wool, skins of sheep and goats, musk and yaks' tails were the chief imports from

that country. The chief exports were cotton and woollen piece-goods, corals and precious stones, earthenware and porcelain, and silk manufactures. Imports from Sikkim amounted to 9 lakhs as against 8 lakhs in 1907-1908, while exports from Bengal were valued at 7½ lakhs compared with 8 lakhs in the previous year. The total trade with Bhutan which amounted to ·23 lakh declined by ·15 lakh.

Coasting Trade.

75. For the sixth year in succession an advance in the coasting trade falls to be recorded. The value of it rose from 20·72 crores in 1907-1908 to 21·71 crores. Of this total, 55 per cent. represents trade with Burma, 24·4 per cent. with Bombay and Sind, 13·5 per cent. with Madras, 1·5 per cent. with Eastern Bengal and Assam and 1·3 per cent. with non-British ports. The large imports of paddy and rice from Burma and of groundnuts from Madras deserve mention. Coal continued to be the preponderating item in the export trade, but the second item, jute manufactures, declined by 18·6 per cent.

Rail and River-borne Trade.

76. The total value of the rail and river-borne trade of the Province amounted to 164 crores or three crores more than in 1907-1908. Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other Provinces were valued at 48·76 crores, as compared with 51·35 crores in the preceding year. Jute, raw, was again the leading staple of the import trade, Indian tea, hides and skins, opium, oil-seeds, rice and paddy were the other important articles of this trade. Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other Provinces declined from 42 crores to 40 crores. The principal articles of export were cotton-goods, rice, husked and unhusked, sugar, metals (mainly iron and steel) and oils.

FISHERIES.

Administration.

77. To assist Mr. A. Ahmad, Commissioner of Fisheries, who continued to be in charge of the enquiry into the fisheries of Bengal, Dr. Jenkins, an expert in fishery matters, was engaged for a period of 18 months from October 1908. An Advisory Board was constituted on the 23rd October. It met twice during the remainder of the year, and discussed various matters on which it was consulted.

Exploration of the Bay of Bengal.

78. A survey of the fisheries of the Bay of Bengal was commenced in June 1908 by the steam trawler *Golden Crown*, which made 17 voyages before the end of March 1909. For each day's actual trawling an average of about a ton of fish was obtained, the quality of which varied considerably. As an experiment, some of the catches were landed in Calcutta, where they met with a fair demand.

At the instance of certain promoters of companies for the development of deep-sea fishing, the Government of India sanctioned the principle that a rebate of duty should be granted on salt used for curing fish, and the rules which have been framed to carry this concession into effect are under the consideration of Government.

Fresh-water Fisheries.

79. During the year little more than a beginning was made with the enquiries into the best means of encouraging and controlling inland and estuary fishing. Two students were, however, deputed to Europe and America to study modern methods of catching and curing fish, the culture of carp in confinement, and the artificial production of the

American shad, a fish closely allied to the Indian *hilsa*, and they are reported to have made good progress.

PUBLIC WORKS ESTABLISHMENT.

Changes in Establishment and Organisation.

80. On the recommendation of the Government of Bengal, the Government of India sanctioned the appointment of a whole-time officer as Consulting Architect on a salary of Rs. 1,000 rising to Rs. 1,250 in five years. Certain changes in organization were made in the Engineer establishment, the cadres of the Imperial and Provincial services being separated, a fixed time-scale of promotion introduced in the Executive and Assistant Engineer class, and the grant of exchange compensation allowance abolished throughout the department. An Electrical Division was formed to deal with the increasing development of electrical work in Calcutta, and the Calcutta Special Works Division was abolished on completion of the work required of it.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial Works.

81. The principal Imperial Works in progress were the improvements in the Paper Currency Office, and the construction of the new Commerce and Industry Secretariat building in Council House Street, Calcutta.

Provincial Works.

82. The most important Provincial Work was the extension to the High Court, which was formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 9th January 1909. Most of the buildings of the new Presidency Jail, Alipore, were completed. For the Police Department the Duff College premises in Nimtollah Ghat Street, Calcutta, were purchased as head-quarters for the Northern Division. Among the works undertaken for the Education Department was the acquisition of land for the extension of the Presidency and Bethune Colleges at Calcutta.

For the Medical Department a very large amount of work was done. The Woodburn Ward in the Presidency General Hospital was completed. At the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, the Isolation and Anatomical Blocks, three blocks for Indian paying-patients, and an electrical annexe to Chuni Lal Seal's Dispensary, were completed, and the construction of the fourth block and of the Surgical Ward was in progress. At the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, two new double-storeyed wards were completed, land was acquired for the extension of the hospital, and the construction of new quarters for nurses was commenced. Improvements were also made in the Howrah General Hospital.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications.

83. The first and second sections of the New High Level Tista Valley Road in the Darjeeling District were practically completed.

Good progress was made in the construction and improvement of the roads in the Sambalpur District.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

84. The Government of Bengal controls in some measure seven Light Railways which have been constructed by private enterprise. The larger Railway systems are controlled by the Railway Board.

85. The total mileage of railways in the Province on the 31st March 1909 was 4,385. During the year 39·50 miles were opened, of which 24¼ miles were on the metre gauge, 8½ miles on the 2′ 6″ gauge and 6¾ miles on the 2′ gauge. Mileage.

86. No main lines are at present under survey, but the Bengal-Nagpur, East Indian and the Bengal and North-Western Railways have completed surveys for branch lines. The Bengal-Duars, the Bengal-Nagpur and the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railways have surveys in progress for branch lines, and a survey in connection with the project for the construction of a bridge over the Ganges in the vicinity of Sara is also in progress. Surveys.

87. The extensions of the Baktiarpur-Bihar Light Railway to Silao and of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway to Pattipukur are under construction. The construction of a Light Railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge between Dehri-on-Sone and Akbarpur has been undertaken by Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. The proposal for the construction of a Light Railway from Arrah to Sassaram was under consideration at the end of the year, but has since been sanctioned. Light Railways.

CANALS.

88. The Major Works are the Sone, Orissa and Midnapore Canals which are both for irrigation and for navigation, and the Hijili Tidal Canal, which is for navigation only. The area irrigated during the year was 1,001,812 acres, which represented an excess of 1,346 acres over the area irrigated in the preceding year, in spite of a decrease on the Orissa system. Irrigation. Productive Works.

89. The revenue from these four canals rose by Rs. 2,47,427, mainly owing to increased receipts from water-rates on the Sone canals, and amounted to Rs. 25,92,228. Revenue.

90. Of the two Protective Works, the Dhaka Canal was practically completed during the year, and was in use, irrigating 13,513 acres and bringing in a revenue from all sources of Rs. 27,149 as compared with Rs. 17,808 in the previous year. The upper half of the Tribeni Canal was also practically finished and on the lower half fair progress was made. Protective Works.

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

91. On embankments Rs. 6,65,000, and on drainage works Rs. 3,90,725 were spent during the year. Embankments and Drainage Works.

THE BENGAL IRRIGATION (PRIVATE WORKS) BILL.

92. The Bengal Irrigation (Private Works) Bill was the outcome of recommendations made by the Indian Irrigation Commission of 1901–1903. The matter has been under consideration since 1904. The original Draft Bill, which was prepared in 1905, has been revised more than once in consultation with various officers. Its objects are to secure the repair and maintenance of private irrigation works, to regulate the supply and distribution of water by means of them, and to regulate their construction, extension and alteration. The Bengal Irrigation (Private Works) Bill.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

Imperial Finance.

93. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 12,53,80,354 and the charges to Rs. 2,51,70,197, being less by Rs. 76,79,815 and Rs. 61,50,634, respectively, than the figures of the previous year. The decrease in receipts was most noticeable under the heads of Land Revenue, Opium and Customs. The decrease in expenditure was mainly under Opium, and was due to smaller payments to cultivators owing to the reduced outturn of the crop.

OPIUM.

Cultivation and manufacture of opium and the number of chests fixed for sale.

94. The area of poppy cultivation was further reduced during the opium season of 1908-1909. The area actually cultivated in the financial year amounted to 614,425 bighas, viz., 165,719 bighas in the Bihar Agency, and 448,706 bighas in the Benares Agency, in comparison with 201,980 and 579,698 bighas, respectively, during the previous year. The quantity of provision opium manufactured during the opium season was 28,125 chests, which, being added to the 22,933 chests remaining from the stock of 1907-1908, brings the total number of chests available for sale during 1910 to 51,058. The number of chests fixed for sale during the calendar year 1910 is 3,300 in each month, in equal proportions of Patna and Benares opium.

SALT.

Removal of the salt golas at Kidderpore and extension of the warehouses at Sulkea.

95. The Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta having requested the removal of the existing salt golas at Kidderpore, on the ground that the space occupied by them is required in connection with the development of the docks, sanction was accorded to the construction of new warehouses at Munshiganj. The project, however, was ultimately abandoned in favour of a less expensive proposal to extend the warehouses at Sulkea, thus concentrating all bonding operations at that place.

Credit-system for payment of salt duty.

96. The Indian Salt Duties Act, X of 1908, which was enacted to provide for a credit system under which salt could be issued to merchants without the necessity for the immediate payment of duty, came into force in September 1908, and rules under it were framed during the year.

EXCISE.

Administrative Changes.

97. Important changes which took effect during the year in the administration of the Excise Department, were the extension of the distillery areas in the districts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur, and the appointment of local committees in 28 large towns to advise Collectors with regard to the licensing of liquor shops for the current year. This consultation of local opinion in connection with excise settlements has been accorded recognition in the new Excise Act.

98. The amendment of the excise law, which had been under consideration for many years, was finally effected by a Bill which was introduced in the Bengal Council in January 1909, and which, since the close of the year, has received the assent of the Governor-General as Act V of 1909. The new Excise Act, V of 1909.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

99. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 71,74,000, and closed with a balance of Rs. 58,44,000. The receipts amounted to Rs. 5,59,03,000 in comparison with Rs. 5,21,52,000 in 1907-1908, while the charges were Rs. 5,72,33,000, against Rs. 5,44,09,000 in the preceding year. There was a large increase in the receipts under Land Revenue Adjustments, due to the larger grants from Imperial Revenues and to a special assignment in aid of the provincial balance. The rise in expenditure was chiefly due to increased disbursements in fees to Pleaders and Counsel in connection with political cases; to the high prices of food-grains, which raised the cost of jails and hospitals; to the purchase of the new pilot steamer *Lady Fraser*, and to the introduction of reforms in the Registration and Police Departments. Provincial Finance.

LOCAL FINANCE.

100. During the year Incorporated Local Funds were placed in the same category as Excluded Local Funds, and the receipts and charges of the Inland Labour Transport Fund were merged in the general revenues of the Province. The total receipts of Local Funds amounted to Rs. 94,22,683 and the charges to Rs. 1,01,96,366, the closing balance being reduced from Rs. 35,20,873 to Rs. 27,47,190. The Doranda Cantonment Fund was abolished, and the rate of Hospital Port Dues was reduced from 6 to 4½ pies per ton. Local Finance.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES.

101. The gross valuation for assessment of Road and Public Works cesses in the 30 districts in which they are levied amounted to Rs. 13,33,01,239. The amount collected was Rs. 73,17,693, or 98·9 per cent. of the current demand. The remissions were in all Rs. 13,58,529. General Results.

102. A revised Bill for the amendment of the Bengal Cess Act has, since the close of the year, been approved by the Government of India and introduced in the Bengal Council. Cess Act Amendment Bill.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

103. The year was marked by a rise in the number of deaths from 1,906,192 in 1907 to 1,948,513 and a fall in the number of births from 1,905,425 in 1907 to 1,823,716. The climatic conditions were unfavourable owing to the inadequacy and irregular distribution of the rainfall in Births and Deaths.

1907 and 1908, and the scarcity of wholesome food which resulted from high prices, and of pure drinking-water, reacted upon the vitality of the people and led to increased mortality from cholera, bowel complaints and fever.

The scrutiny of vital statistics with the object of testing their accuracy was continued in the Burdwan district, and it was found that in about 40 per cent. of the cases examined the cause of death registered was erroneous.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Investigation and Remedial Measures.

104. In pursuance of the policy of conducting systematic investigations into the prevalence of malarial fever, a special enquiry was made by Captain Forster, I.M.S., with a staff of six subordinate officers, into the circumstances of the most malarious thanas of the Purnea and Murshidabad districts.

Satisfactory results attended the deputation for five months of 17 Civil Hospital Assistants as itinerant medical officers to distribute medical relief in specially malarious tracts of the Presidency Division, and the experiment will be continued.

Preventive Measures.

105. Measures were adopted to extend and popularise the use of quinine as a prophylactic against malaria. Central depôts were established in each district under the control of the Civil Surgeon, and from them the quinine is despatched to the various agencies utilised for the sale of it. The quantity of quinine in each pice-packet was also increased from 7 to 10 grains, and the drug is now supplied both in the form of powder and in the form of tablets.

EMIGRATION.

Colonial Emigration.

106. Six emigration agencies were at work, five representing British Colonies and one the Dutch Colony of Surinam. There was a considerable increase both in the number of emigrants requisitioned and the number despatched. As in previous years recruitment was most vigorous in the United Provinces, which supplied 87 per cent. of the emigrants. The restriction as to the despatch of emigrants to Fiji during the hurricane months was withdrawn as powerful steamers are now employed to convey them.

Returning emigrants brought back with them to India over 7½ lakhs of rupees, the average per emigrant being Rs. 175.

Inland Emigration.

107. In respect of inland emigration, the policy of encouraging genuine free recruitment through *bonâ fide* garden-sardars working under Associations of recognised standing and probity was maintained during the year, and garden-sardars working under the control of the local agents of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association, the Assam Labour Association and the Longai Valley Employers' Recruiting Association, were authorised under certain conditions to forward unindentured emigrants without producing them before a registering officer.

Section 91 of the Inland Emigration Act (Act VI of 1901) was amended by the passing of Act XI of 1908, so as to enable Local Governments to dispense with, or relax by notification, any of the provisions of Chapters III and IV of Act VI of 1901. The labour provisions of the Act were withdrawn from the Surma Valley districts and the

districts of Kamrup and Goalpara, with effect from the 1st November 1908.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Calcutta Medical Institutions.

108. Seventeen public institutions were at work in Calcutta during the year and accommodation was generally adequate. The nursing arrangements were good, except in one instance, in which, on the report of a special committee of enquiry, changes were sanctioned which have placed them on a satisfactory footing. Structural and other improvements, such as have done so much to bring the larger hospitals up to the standard of modern requirements, continued to be effected. The Woodburn Ward for paying-patients at the Presidency General Hospital was opened by Sir Andrew Fraser in July. Three donations of Rs. 30,000 each were received from Indian gentlemen for the construction of a ward for Indian paying-patients at the Medical College Hospital.

The public health was fairly good and the death-rate fell from 37·6 to 32·6 per mille. Cholera, fever, small-pox, plague and bowel complaints were less prevalent than in previous years. The aggregate number of persons treated in Calcutta hospitals was 28,456 indoor and 298,448 outdoor patients against 28,721 and 288,040, respectively, in 1907. There has been a steady increase in the efficiency and in the popularity of these institutions.

Mufassal Dispensaries.

109. The number of dispensaries outside Calcutta fell from 587 in 1907 to 572. Satisfactory results attended the system of deputing medical officers in charge of dispensaries to visit outlying market centres for the purpose of administering medical aid. An itinerant dispensary at Orora for the benefit of Government tenants was popular, but while one floating dispensary was successful, another failed to effect much good.

The number of in-door patients was 63,379 or substantially the same as in 1907, while the decrease of 48,345 in the number of out-door patients (3,965,101) is in keeping with the general health of the community, which, though bad in the first half, was exceptionally good in the second half of the year. The decrease would have been greater but for the steady improvement in the conditions of the dispensaries.

The manual of rules for the management of hospitals and dispensaries was revised during the year.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

110. The number of patients at the Eden Sanitarium was the largest on record, and the financial statement for the first time for many years showed a balance in favour of the institution.

Lunatic Asylums.

111. The number of lunatics under detention was 865, an increase of 13. The death-rate was lower than in similar institutions in any other Province or in England. Phthisis was as usual prevalent at Berhampore, but the measures taken at Patna to avert cholera and bowel complaints were very successful. The great reduction in mortality and the absence of any epidemic are mainly attributable to the numerous sanitary structural and other improvements recently effected in the Asylums.

Revision of the Lunatic Asylums Act and Rules.

112. A Special Committee was appointed to consider and report upon the expediency of revising Act XXXVI of 1858 so as to bring it into conformity with modern requirements. Upon their recommendation, section 17B of that enactment was amended by Act I (B.C.) of 1909 so

as to legalise the despatch to Berhampore of Indian paying lunatics who are residents of Calcutta without an order of the High Court, such as was hitherto required. Other amendments of the law recommended by the Committee were under the consideration of the Government of India.

The revision of the Lunatic Asylum Rules was still in progress.

Central Asylums.

113. The project for the establishment near Ranchí of a Central Asylum for Indian lunatics of the Province received the sanction of the Government of India, and detailed plans of the buildings were nearly completed. The scheme for a similar institution for he European lunatics of Northern India is still under consideration.

SANITATION.

Appointment of an Inspector of Septic Tank Installations.

114. In order to ensure the efficiency of the septic tank installations, particularly in the mills situated along the banks of the Hooghly, an Inspector was appointed, whose special duty it is to visit the septic tanks at frequent intervals and to advise the managers of the mills in connection with any defects which may be observed in their working.

Magrahāt Drainage Scheme.

115. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received to a scheme for the drainage of a large area in the Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Parganas district in the neighbourhood of Magrahāt, at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,10,850. The work is intended to improve the sanitary condition of a tract 290 square miles in extent, and to relieve from water-logging land at present both unhealthy and infertile. Under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, 1895, the initial expenditure on the works, together with the capitalized cost of maintenance, could have been wholly recovered from the proprietors of the tract affected. Since, however, the scheme was an expensive one and its benefits were not confined to the persons whose land was directly affected, Government agreed to contribute five lakhs to the District Board of the 24-Parganas and to grant a loan of Rs. 15,10,850 to that body. Government has also undertaken to bear all maintenance charges, estimated to amount to Rs. 18,257 per annum, in return for any income derived from the scheme. The Government contribution has already been partly expended on the construction at Diamond Harbour of a sluice which was urgently required in order to prevent the further deterioration of the channels.

VACCINATION.

Progress of Vaccination.

116. In view of the rising mortality from small-pox and the severe outbreak which occurred in Calcutta in the cold weather, it is satisfactory that the number of persons vaccinated increased considerably. The appointment of a special Inspector of Vaccination in Orissa led to a gratifying increase in the number of operations performed.

THE POISONS ACT.

Rules under the Poisons Act, 1904.

117. Rules were issued under sections 2 and 4 of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, to regulate the possession for sale, and the sale, of white arsenic and certain other poisons in Bengal. The form of the licenses to be issued under the rules was also prescribed.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Training of Teachers.

118. Two training colleges for English teachers of secondary schools were established during the year at Calcutta and Bankipore. Admission to the former institution, which is named after David Hare, is restricted to 20 graduate teachers. The course of teaching leads up to the examination of the Calcutta University for the degree of Bachelor of Teaching. The Patna Training College, which is intended only for Biharis, prepares students for the examination for the certificate of a Licentiate in Teaching. Two training schools for female teachers of primary schools were also established at Calcutta and Bankipore and are conducted on strictly *purdah* lines. The Calcutta schoo has been opened as a tentative measure for one year in the first instance.

Managing and Visiting Committees.

119. In accordance with the new University regulations, governing bodies, on which the teaching staff is adequately represented, were constituted for the Government colleges and instructions were issued regarding their functions. Subject to certain restrictions, they will control the expenditure of all sums allotted by Government for the maintenance of the college and consider, examine and initiate projects for its improvement. The Board of Visitors of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, has been reconstituted, and now consists of 14 *ex-officio* members, including two nominees of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and a nominee of the Government of Burma, and 12 ordinary members including representatives of mining interests and private civil engineering, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering firms. Inspectors of Schools will be Vice-Presidents of the committees of management of Government collegiate schools, which will ordinarily be removed from the college buildings and be controlled by the Inspectors.

Muhammadan Education.

120. A scheme was adopted for the institution of a title examination for advanced madrasa students on the results of which titles showing proficiency in different branches of Muhammadan learning will be conferred. A Muhammadan inspecting officer in each Division will be appointed to supervise Muhammadan education. One teacher is to be appointed for every 25 pupils in model *maktabs*, and fees realised from the pupils will be apportioned among the teachers.

Colleges.

121. To encourage promising students in Government colleges in the mufassal who have obtained the Bachelor's degree in Arts or Science, to read for the Master's degree, eight scholarships of Rs. 30 a month tenable for two years were sanctioned. The Director of Public Instruction was authorised to grant free studentships up to an annual limit of 12 in the case of the Presidency College and of six in the case of the other Government colleges. The scope of work in the Sanskrit College under the new University regulations was carefully considered. It was arranged that the college should teach four of the nine optional groups of Sanskrit subjects recognised by the University for the degree of Master of Arts. Pending the introduction of a complete scheme of reform, several minor appointments were sanctioned to meet the immediate requirements of the institution.

Technological Chemistry.

122. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received during the year to the opening of classes in technological chemistry, and in dyeing and the chemistry of dyeing, at the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, experimentally for a period of three years.

Model Primary Girls' School.

123. The salaries of teachers in model primary girls' schools, which will henceforth be classed as purely Government institutions, not as aided schools, were raised with effect from the 1st April 1909, and as in the case of *maktabs*, one teacher will be allowed for every 25 girls.

Secondary Education.

124. One of the most important educational questions under consideration during the year was the improvement of secondary education in the Province. The question awaits final orders.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Reformatory Schools.

125. The amalgamation of the Reformatory Schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh, which had long been in contemplation, was accomplished in September 1908, and the institution is now located at Hazaribagh, where extensions and additions have been made to the existing buildings. Advantage has been taken of the amalgamation to introduce an improved system of education directed towards accustoming the pupils to the conditions of work which they will experience after their discharge.

In pursuance of the policy of giving the institution the character of a school, the boys are encouraged to take an interest in physical drill, gymnastics and athletics, as well as in the band, which is reported to be a strong incentive to good conduct.

Admissions fell from 146 to 125. Discipline was excellent and the health of the boys satisfactory. Two experienced Deputy Inspectors of Schools have been appointed to visit discharged boys and keep a friendly watch upon them. Boys who behave well at the school are now eligible for a small monthly allowance for three years after release. Unfortunately only a small proportion of the boys discharged pursue the occupations, other than agriculture, which they have been taught at the institution.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Publications.

126. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1908 was 3,417, against 2,995 in the previous year; of the total, 2,341 were books and 1,076 periodicals. The industrial activity, which was a prominent feature of the year, was fully reflected in the current literature. A new spirit is stimulating and giving a new direction to literary activity. Light literature, which till recently occupied the attention of the best writers, is giving place to more serious subjects.

The number of vernacular newspapers decreased from 90 to 84. They continued their unreasoning hostility to the measures and officers of Government. Six prosecutions of printers and publishers of newspapers were undertaken under section 124A and convictions followed, except in one case where Government withdrew the prosecution as the accused was dying. Four cases under the same section in respect of books were pending at the close of the year. Two presses were confiscated under the new Incitements to Violence Act. The prosecutions under Act XXV of 1867 numbered eight, and convictions followed in seven cases.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

127. Repairs were executed to the Dargahs at Maner and Burdwan, the Fort at Palamau, the surroundings of the Black Pagoda at Kanarak and the buildings at Tribeni and Pandua. The capital and crowning figures of the Asoka pillars at Rampurwa in Champaran were removed and prepared for transit to the Imperial Museum at Calcutta.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S DEPARTMENT.

Work of the Chemical Examiner.

128. Analyses in the Chemical Examiner's Department showed a decrease, as fewer samples of cocaine were submitted. There was, however, an increase in medico-legal work. Poison was detected in 41 per cent. of the cases examined, the commonest being opium and arsenic.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Change in Administration.

129. The Bengal Veterinary College and the Civil Veterinary Department became separate at the beginning of the year.

Bengal Veterinary College.

130. The Bengal Veterinary College is proving a very useful institution. In the Research Laboratory important original work was done, and the study of rabies and of the more obscure cases admitted into the hospital for treatment was continued. The Laboratory also enables valuable instruction to be given to the senior students in the infectious diseases of India. Several interesting papers were published.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

131. The provisions of the Glanders and Farcy Act were more strictly enforced during the year, but the efficient administration of the Act was, as usual, free from friction.

Civil Veterinary Department.

132. The inspecting staff of the Civil Veterinary Department was considerably strengthened. There are now in the Province four Inspectors appointed under the re-organization scheme and 52 Veterinary Assistants, but no Veterinary Assistants have as yet been appointed under that scheme.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bureau of Information.

133. A Bureau of Information under the supervision of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was established to afford assistance to Government officers in Bengal who desire to pursue researches, of however modest a character, in connection with the history, religion, usages and folklore of the Province and its people. The Society consented to act as a centre of reference, to reply as far as possible to all enquiries, and to offer suggestions as to sources of information, courses of study

or method of treatment. The management of the Bureau has been undertaken by Mahamahopadhyā Hara Prosad Shastri, who has special qualifications for this work, and Government has sanctioned an annual grant of Rs. 3,600 to the Society towards the cost of it.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, CALCUTTA.

Zoological Garden.

134. The public appreciation of the Garden continues unabated. The Garden sustained a heavy loss by the death of the Superintendent.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1908-1909.

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MAP.

Map of Bengal.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1908-1909.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.
HISTORICAL SUMMARY.
FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.
CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES, SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.
CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.
DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 1—160, AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1905-1906, PART II, PAGE 1.

Changes in the Administration.

Change of Lieutenant-Governor.

THE Hon'ble Sir Edward Norman Baker, K.C.S.I., received charge of the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal from Sir Andrew Henderson Leith Fraser, K.C.S.I., on the afternoon of the 30th November 1908, on the latter's resignation of the office.

Transfer of Deputy Magistrates.

2. Commissioners of Divisions were empowered, subject to submission of reports to Government, to transfer Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors (including Subdivisional Officers of that class) within their Divisions.

Redistribution of the Patna Division.

3. The Secretary of State for India having sanctioned the proposal to redistribute the Patna Division into two Commissioners' charges, a Division to be known as the Tirhut Division, comprising the districts of Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Champaran and Saran, which are situated north of the Ganges, and with its head-quarters at Muzaffarpur, was constituted on the 18th November 1908. The remaining districts of the old Patna Division, viz., Patna, Gaya and Shahabad, which lie south of the Ganges, now form the Patna Division.

Appointment of Sadar Subdivisional Officers.

4. The question of appointing officers to have charge of Sadar subdivisions was under the consideration of Government. Such appointments were made during the year in a few districts where local circumstances were suitable and the available staff sufficient. These appointments cannot, however, be made general until the cadre of the Indian Civil Service is increased.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

(Annual Administration Report of the State for 1908-1909.]

[Area, 1,307 square miles; chief products, rice, jute and tobacco; population, 566,979; revenue, Rs. 25,00,925; military force, 294 men and four guns. No change in the ruling Chief since last year. Family of Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence Cooch Behar; heir-apparent, Maharaj-Kumar Raj Rajendra Narayan.]

Creation of a Legislative Council.

5. The most important change in the system of administration in Cooch Behar introduced during the past official year was the creation of a separate Legislative Council. Hitherto the State Council performed the functions of a Legislative Council. It has now been ordered that all

matters relating to legislation should be dealt with by a separate body. The new Council will include, in addition to all members of the State Council, five new members representing the different classes and creeds of the community. They will be appointed by His Highness the Maharaja and will be called Additional Members.

Work of the State Council.

6. On the legislative and executive side, 43 meetings of the State Council were held, being the same number as in the previous year, at 12 of which His Highness the Maharaja presided.

Judicial.

7. The Council held 26 meetings on its judicial side against 31 in the previous year. At two of these His Highness the Maharaja presided and heard a criminal appeal.

Legislative.

8. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Cooch Behar Act I of 1909) was passed into law during the year. The Code is based on the law in force in British India, with slight modifications to suit the special circumstances of the State. Another important measure, the Cooch Behar Tenancy Bill, which deals with the rights of landlords and tenants, was under the consideration of the Council.

State Railway.

9. The work of converting the Cooch Behar State Railway into a metre-gauge line was commenced by the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities, the negotiations having been completed in the previous year.

Cultivation and manufacture of tobacco.

10. The area under tobacco was reduced from 180 to 75 bighas so that half the lands might be kept fallow each year and the cultivated area suitably manured. Unfortunately the abnormal drought retarded the growth of the plants and injuriously affected the later curings. The earlier curings, however, gave excellent results, and the colour of the tobacco was highly praised by American experts. The yield, however, was poor. It is reported that the best tobacco was sold for Rs. 20 a maund.

Crops and condition of the people.

11. Owing to deficient rainfall the outturn of early rice did not exceed 12 annas and that of jute and late rice 9 annas. The price of common rice was higher than in the previous year, and varied between Rs. 4-2 and Rs. 6-4. The jute market continued dull, the rate varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7-8. The land-owning and cultivating classes were, on the whole, well off; but, as in the previous year, persons with small fixed incomes felt acutely the high price of food grains.

Financial.

12. The total revenue amounted to Rs. 25,00,925 against Rs. 25,04,522, thus exhibiting a fall of Rs. 3,597. The total expenditure was Rs. 24,64,933 compared with Rs. 24,93,383 in 1907-08, representing a decrease Rs. 28,450. The closing balance, inclusive of deposits and Government money amounting to Rs. 3,88,955, was Rs. 12,73,187, an increase of Rs. 79,137.

Criminal Justice.

13. The total number of criminal cases reported rose from 3,249 in 1907-08 to 3,466 in 1908-09. The percentage of convictions to total number tried in cognizable and non-cognizable cases rose from 70·93 and 70·27 to 73·05 and 81·17 respectively.

Education.

14. The promulgation of the new regulations of the Calcutta University necessitated the raising of the English schools in the State to a higher level of efficiency in order to secure and maintain their affiliation to the University. This was effected by the aid of liberal grants from the State and the development of local resources. There were 321 primary and secondary schools, and the number of pupils attending them rose from 11,609 to 11,658. Excluding the Sunity College there were 14 girls' schools, and the total number of girls under instruction, exclusive of those borne on the rolls of that college, was 292 against 431 of the preceding year. The Sunity College had 135 pupils on its rolls. The results of the various University examinations in the case of students appearing from the Victoria College were said to be satisfactory.

Maharaja's family.

15. The Maharaja paid a visit to England during the year and returned to Cooch Behar on the 4th January 1909. During his absence from the State the administration was conducted by the Council under his instructions. Maharaj-Kumar Jitendra Narayan was appointed an Honorary Magistrate and invested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Health.

16. The state of public health was far from good, the year being a very unhealthy one. This was principally due to malaria. Cholera and small-pox also raged in parts of the State during the year. In view of the good results obtained in Italy and elsewhere by the free distribution of quinine it

has been proposed by the Civil Surgeon of the State to obtain machinery for the manufacture of tabloids to enable the Medical Department to distribute that drug in a convenient and not unpalatable form.

POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR

[Report on these States for 1908-1909 by the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.]

[Two States:—(1) Seraikela: area, 449 square miles; population, 104,539; total receipts, Rs. 1,27,731; Chief—Raja Udit Narayan Singh Deo Bahadur, aged 60. (2) Kharsawan: area, 153 square miles; population, 36,640; total receipts, Rs. 46,772. The Chief, Kuar Sriram Chandra Singh Deo, aged 18, ranks as a Thakur and is a student at the Rajkumar College at Raipur. The States pay no tribute and have no military force. They are under the direct supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum. Both Chiefs are cadets of the Porahat family.]

17. The Seraikela State was administered by its Chief, while the Kharsawan State, owing to the minority of the Chief, continued under Government management. Administration.

18. The total receipts in the Seraikela State rose by Rs. 23,609 and in the Kharsawan State fell by Rs. 4,377. In the former there was an increase in the percentage of land revenue collections and in revenue from forests, and in the latter a decline. No coercive measures for the realization of arrears were taken. The receipts from excise diminished in both States in consequence of the remissions in the first half of the year because of the scarcity, and the dearness of food-grains. Revenue.

19. The year was very favourable from an agricultural point of view. The outturn of the crops being excellent, the material condition of the people was prosperous after the scarcity of the earlier months had passed away. Material condition of the people.

20. The public health was generally good, and, in consequence, the number of patients treated in the State dispensary at Seraikela decreased. The Civil Surgeon of Singhbhum supervised vaccination in both States, and there was a large increase in the number of successful inoculations. Public health.

21. There was an increase in the jail population in both States. A jail building is under construction at Seraikela. In Kharsawan there was an increase in the number of primary schools and of pupils attending them, while in Seraikela the number of schools continued the same, though the number of pupils declined. Jails and Education.

22. The decrease in crime was marked and is reported to be mainly due to better crops. In the only Sessions case the accused was tried and convicted by the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur. Crime.

TRIBUTARY AND FEUDATORY STATES OF ORISSA.

[Report on these States for 1908-1909 by the Commissioner of Orissa.]

[Number of States 24; aggregate area 28,046 square miles; population 3,173,395; gross revenue Rs. 41,16,889.]

23. These States are supervised by a Political Agent subordinate to the Commissioner of Orissa. The States of Bonai, Hindol, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Rairakhol, and Keonjhar continued under Government management. The State of Nilgiri was restored to the administration of its Chief at the beginning of the year. Administration.

24. There was a small decline of Rs. 5,493 in the gross revenue. The land revenue administration of the States maintained the improvement made in the previous year. Collections were made without difficulty and sale of property for the realization of land revenue was rare. The settlement of the Boad State was completed. Settlement operations were in progress in Gangpur, but in the Bonai State they were again postponed as the necessary staff of Uriya-speaking surveyors could not be procured. The financial position of the States is sound, except in the case of some of the smaller States. The introduction of the budget system and the more regular and punctual realization of revenue have led to a marked improvement in the financial condition of the smaller States. The revenues of the States are expanding. Land Revenue and Finance.

25. Rice is the most important crop in all the States and the excellent outturn of that crop led to greatly improved collections of land revenue and of the *takavi* loans advanced in previous years. The States of Dhenkanal, Moharbhanj and Narsingpur suffered from floods in the early part of the year and relief measures had to be adopted, including suspension of revenue in the affected tracts. Material condition of the people.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Public health.

26. The public health was generally good, though outbreaks of cholera and fever occurred in some of the States. A new dispensary was opened at Jaipatna in the Kalahandi State and considerable improvement was effected in the existing dispensaries of the States. It is satisfactory that the policy of entrusting the control of vaccination work entirely to the Chiefs has proved successful. Locally trained men are now employed as vaccinators and two female vaccinators have been employed in the Narsingpur State. Re-vaccination was introduced in all the States except one.

Public Works.

27. The total expenditure on public works was Rs. 8,26,603, an excess of 4·8 per cent. over the figures of the preceding year, which themselves represented a gratifying rise of 50 per cent. In Moharbhanj a large irrigation *bāndh* was completed and six other useful projects were in progress. In Keonjhar the work of extending the main road through the State was continued.

Education.

28. Education continued to make satisfactory progress throughout the States. The total number of schools and pupils attending them increased from 1,825 and 49,712 to 1,951 and 56,717, respectively. The increase of girl pupils from 4,041 to 4,914 and the opening of ten new girls' schools are satisfactory features of the year. The total expenditure incurred on education by the States, excluding the Government contribution, was Rs. 2,11,648 against Rs. 1,73,943 in the previous year.

Forests.

29. The demarcation and reservation of forest areas, the preparation of working plans, the employment of special fire-guards, the enforcement of forest rules and the appointment of trained forest officers were among the chief measures adopted in the forest administration. An immediate increase of revenue cannot be expected from these measures and in fact the forest revenue did not improve during the year. The Chiefs now for the most part realise that they possess valuable assets in the forests. The question of appointing a qualified forest officer for the Agency is still under the consideration of Government.

Excise.

30. There was a decrease in the excise revenue in 13 States owing to the poor outturn of the rice crop in 1907-1908, in consequence of which the people spent less on excisable articles. The falling off of revenue from country liquor in certain States was due to the extensive failure of the *mahua* crop. An arrangement has been sanctioned under which the five Sambalpur States will be supplied with Khandwa *ganja* free of duty on payment of the cost of production and transport.

Jails.

31. The improvement in the Jail Department has been well maintained. The introduction of simple and clear rules for the medical and dietary arrangements and for regulating the scale of labour and the scale of punishment have greatly contributed to the amelioration of the condition of the jails. All the States have now fairly suitable jail buildings, with the exception of Khandpara and Tigaria, where new jails will be built as soon as funds are available. In almost all the jails one or more improved fly-shuttle looms have been provided and in some of them the Salvation Army loom has been successfully introduced.

Police and crime.

32. An increase in the number of cognizable cases (mainly in petty thefts and burglaries) is reported and is said to be due partly to dearness of food-grains during the early part of the year and partly to better reporting consequent upon the steady and continuous improvement in the police administration. A satisfactory feature of the year is the complete suppression of serious outbreaks of dacoity in the Bamra, Bonai and Gangpur States. Not a single case of dacoity occurred in these States during the year. The gang which operated there has been broken up and scattered and the small remnant that has hitherto succeeded in eluding capture is being hunted down. In Kalahandi, which is a favourite haunt of dacoits, the number of cases of this description fell from 43 to 22 owing to the energetic measures taken by the State police. The other States in which dacoity occurred were Dhenkanal and Daspulla, each of which reported one case of dacoity. On the whole, police work, though heavy, was efficiently and satisfactorily performed.

Administration of Justice.

33. The administration of criminal justice has been prompt, and most of the States show an improvement in the average duration of cases. In criminal cases the evidence was, as a general rule, fairly recorded and the records are now correctly arranged and indexed. The sentences passed were for the most part adequate and suitable.

Civil suits were, as a rule, carefully tried, the issues being correctly framed, and cases on appeal had rarely to be remanded for retrial. There was a general and all-round improvement in disposals and in the average duration of suits. The total number of suits for disposal exhibited a decrease.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration, 1908-1909.]

General.

34. The outstanding feature of the year was the comparative poorness of the harvests, succeeding two years of bad crops. Prices remained high. Jute cultivation was contracted owing to the depression in trade, and sugar-cane suffered along with other crops from the dryness of the season, so that money was as scarce as food. Although wages rose with the price of food, all classes alike were affected by the scarcity which prevailed in different parts of the Province. Fortunately, emigration within the Province and to other parts of India, aided by improved communications, continues to increase and helps to relieve the suffering from bad harvests and pressure of the population on the soil. The growing tendency to travel in search of work, together with the importation of new ideas which it entails, probably accounts for the continued improvement in the standard of living among all classes of the population. Numerous articles which a few years ago were the luxuries of the well-to-do are fast becoming necessities for the many. These new needs provide a stimulus for trade which it is to be hoped will result in the development and creation of Indian industries without which a population so largely dependent on agriculture must continue to remain at the mercy of the seasons.

Prices of food.

35. Compared with the previous year common rice was cheaper in all districts, except Howrah, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Purnea, Puri, Hazaribagh and Ranchi, while wheat and gram were much dearer except in Murshidabad and Champaran. The price of barley rose except in Bihar, while the price of maize fell slightly in some districts and rose in others. There was a substantial fall in the price of salt, except in four districts, while in Calcutta it was stationary.

Wages of labour.

36. In the Burdwan Division there was no appreciable modification in wages and demand for labour. Wages generally remained at the very high level of 1907-1908, and even exceeded it in Hooghly and Howrah, owing to the demand for labour in industrial concerns there. In the Presidency Division local causes led to a slight rise in wages in Khulna, but in the 24-Parganas there was a slight fall towards the end of the year in consequence of the good harvest of winter rice. In the Patna and Tirhut Divisions the high price of food-grains tends to force wages upwards. Subsidiary causes contributing to the same result are the greater demand for skilled labour in towns, mills, and places where railway construction is in progress, and the emigration of the labouring classes to industrial centres in Eastern Bengal, Assam and elsewhere. A strike occurred in the Bettiah subdivision in April 1908, because cultivators attempted to commute the wages of their labourers from grain to cash on the basis of the lower prices of previous years. The labourers refused to work, and the cultivators themselves had to cut their *rabi* crops. In the Bhagalpur Division the labourers of the Bhagalpur district continued to work at the old rate of grain wages, but were reluctant to work at the old rate of money wages. In Purnea wages rose to eight annas or more a day in the jute season. In Darjeeling the tea industry continued to suffer from a short supply of labour. In the Sonthal Parganas a rise in wages took place in the Pakaur and Rajmahal subdivisions. In Orissa the tendency to an increase in wages was seen in Cuttack, Puri and Sambalpur, but in Angul the cultivators tried with some success to reduce the grain wages of their labourers. In the remaining district, Balasore, wages remained stationary. In Chota Nagpur the labour market continued active and the wages of labourers remained high.

FAMINE AND FLOODS.

Position in the end of March 1908.

37. When the year 1907-1908 closed, test-works and gratuitous relief had become necessary in the districts of Bankura, Cuttack, Balasore, Puri and Ranchi, and on 28th March the number on the former was 2,853 and on the

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

latter 4,978. The excessive rain in the middle of August 1907 in the Chota Nagpur and Orissa Divisions had caused unprecedented floods in Orissa. From the 10th September in Chota Nagpur and the last week of that month in the rest of the Province there had been an almost complete cessation of the rains till the middle of December, after which rain fell generally and benefited the *rabi*, thereby enabling several districts in which scarcity was anticipated to escape serious distress. The unprecedentedly high range of prices was an additional unfavourable factor in the situation, and very considerable distress was felt by the poorer respectable classes and by all persons whose incomes are fixed and not dependent on land.

Progress of relief.

38. In the early stages relief was confined to Orissa, except for a few test-works in Bankura where 550 square miles were affected, in which gratuitous relief was organized in March. At the beginning of March 1908 there were 19,000 on relief, of whom 18,000 were in Orissa. Relief had to be started in March in Nadia. Hazaribagh held out till April, (but the distress not being severe, was met by organised gratuitous relief and private charity), and Ranchi till the beginning of May, chiefly owing to the jungle produce that is available in those districts. The numbers on relief rose rapidly in May and the first half of June to over 47,000, but by the end of the month they had fallen to 40,000 owing to agricultural operations. On the 1st of July famine was declared in an area of 2,261 square miles with a population of 237,238 persons in the Gumla subdivision of Ranchi. It was no longer possible for the people to subsist on the jungle, and agricultural operations brought no relief, because while practically all the workers owned land, there was no demand for paid field labour, and it was necessary to give them facilities for supporting themselves while they were tilling their fields. The numbers in this district rose till the beginning of August, when there were 11,676 on relief works and 5,947 on gratuitous relief; the numbers then gradually decreased till the early rice was harvested towards the end of September, when the works were closed and gratuitous relief given till the end of the month. In Jessore Rs. 27,000 was spent on gratuitous relief in June and July. Just before the rains slight distress in Murshidabad was met by the grant of loans. Elsewhere gratuitous relief was continued with small fluctuations till the end of September. In Orissa, however, there was a rise in the numbers on gratuitous relief at the end of September and beginning of October, especially in Balasore owing to fresh floods, and in Puri partly owing to fresh floods and partly owing to the fact that the old mouth of the Devi river was closed by a sand bar. Relief was not completely closed in Balasore till January 1909, and continued in Puri on a very small scale until May.

Nature and cost of relief.

39. Except in Ranchi the distress was nowhere very acute, and the classes affected were those who are always on the border of want, those who cannot work, and families left unsupported owing to the death or emigration of their bread-winners. Relief was, therefore, given generally in the form of charitable doles administered either by Government officers, or through panchayats and other private agency. In Nadia relief was given chiefly in the shape of District Board work at piece-work rates: this naturally attracted only male labour, but the labourers were able to earn sufficient to support their families. In the declared area in Ranchi, the affected class consisted of petty cultivators whose stocks were depleted, but who were unwilling to emigrate and leave their land; there are no beggars, and very few persons who do not hold some land. Gratuitous relief was unnecessary until the rains, when it was impossible for old people and young children to go on to the works. Small works, numbering 41, formed the backbone of relief in this district.

The cost to Government was Rs. 8,57,207, while Rs. 60,107 were spent in the affected areas from District Board funds and other sources, chiefly subscriptions or amounts received from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund. Land improvement and takavi loans, amounting to Rs. 24,18,806, were granted in the affected districts, and were of the greatest assistance to the raiyats, mainly in enabling the rice crop of 1908 to be sown.

Monsoon of 1908 and the resulting scarcity.

40. The monsoon in 1908 was from the outset markedly weak and badly distributed in Bihar. In the districts south of the Ganges the cultivators were able to pull through with liberal and timely grants of takavi loans. In the north Gangetic districts, however, and especially in a tract of about

3,790 square miles with a population of three millions, extending along the Nepal frontier and comprising the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions of Darbhanga and adjacent areas in Muzaffarpur on the west, and Bhagalpur on the east, such a failure of the monsoon current had never previously been experienced—even in 1873 or 1896. This tract is the most vulnerable in the Province, and relief had been necessary on several occasions when other parts escaped. The cold weather rains, including in these districts the indispensable rains of the *hathia* asterism, failed completely. The *bhadoi* crop was in serious defect; the *aghani* crop on unirrigated land failed completely in that tract, the neighbouring areas, and Purnea, and the lack of moisture in the soil was ominous for the *rabi* crop, and eventually disastrous to it where artificial irrigation was not available. Serious apprehensions also began to be entertained in some districts as to the supply of drinking water. Indications of the approach of scarcity began to be manifest early in August. Vigorous measures to retrieve the situation, however, met with success where exceptionally adverse local economic or agricultural conditions were not present to intensify the distress. In Darbhanga and the north-east of Muzaffarpur the labourers have not yet learned to emigrate in search of work. The staple crop is winter-rice and the whole tract is always liable to a partial or total failure of crops. There had been short harvests for three years, and in 1906 floods had washed out the crops and led to the declaration of famine in Darbhanga, from which the cultivators had not recovered. In the end of September 1908 test-works were required in the Singhia outpost of the Roserha thana of the Darbhanga district, where the 1906 famine had been worst. Loans, to enable extensive sowing of *rabi* to be made provided work, but the *rabi* ultimately failed, and when in the end of January the Lieutenant-Governor found 32,914 persons on 25 test-works and a great and growing demand for employment, failing which a multitude of persons would be thrown on the hands of Government in a state of starvation, famine was declared in Bahera, Roserha, Phulparas and Benipatti thanas from 1st February, and in Khajauli, Madhubani and Darbhanga thanas from 1st March. At the end of March there were 51,068 persons on 55 relief works, mainly re-excavation of tanks. Organised gratuitous relief in villages began in the end of February and gradually expanded, the daily average in March being 13,298 persons. Besides the tract mentioned, Paru thana in Muzaffarpur (111 square miles with a population of 78,000) and Kabkhand pargana in Bhagalpur (100 square miles with a population of 70,000 people) were affected owing to the loss of crops in antecedent years. In Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur the policy of the local officers was to avert distress and the declaration of famine by stimulation of private works through liberal advances of land improvement loans. In Bhagalpur, efforts were specially directed to the mitigation of the existing distress and prevention of future famines by enlisting the aid of nature against flood and drought, by damming rivers, erecting *bandhs* and stimulating the digging of *kutcha* wells, while in Muzaffarpur the primary object was to prevent a water-famine by excavating or re-excavating tanks and wells. By this method not only were important works of permanent utility accomplished, but the demand for employment was satisfied in an economical way, and the declaration of famine with the consequent necessity of a wide extension of unremunerative direct relief works was averted. Heavy advances of land improvement loans were also made in Darbhanga, and it would appear that a notable new method of indirect relief has been devised where the distress is not very general or acute. Relief works on tanks and roads and gratuitous relief were required from February onwards in Bhagalpur and gratuitous relief in Muzaffarpur. In Purnea and the Japla pargana of Palamau gratuitous relief by grain doles was given on a small scale during the later months of the year, which in Purnea continued till June.

The relief operations continued after the close of the year, but useful rain in April encouraged early sowings, timely and liberal takavi loans were advanced and the unprecedentedly early rains in June having produced a vigorous resumption of agricultural operations, the works were rapidly closed, and all relief operations were discontinued in the end of July.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for the year 1908-1909.]

Collection of Land Revenue.

41. Details of the demand, collections and balance of general revenues for the financial year are given in Chapter V—Revenue and Finance. As regards land revenue the current demand of the year was Rs 2,88,87,332 or over Rs. 1,42,000 in excess of the demand of the previous year. The total collections, which were adversely affected by bad harvests and high prices of food-grains, were about Rs. 96,000 less than the current demand, and the percentage (96·03) on total demand was the lowest during the quinquennial period. The remissions amounted to Rs. 59,434. Owing chiefly to partitions there was an increase of 858 in the total number of estates.

Defaults and Sale Law.

42. The sale law was as usual administered with leniency and moderation. Although the number of defaults rose from 8,843 to 14,785, the number of sales decreased by 17, and the percentage of sales on defaults fell from 7·6 to 4·4. As one of the most common causes of default is disagreement amongst co-sharers, this result was probably mainly due to instructions issued by the Board in the preceding year encouraging the exercise of discretion in granting exemptions from sale in the case of estates owned by co-sharers. Out of 131 appeals preferred to Commissioners against sales, 38 were successful, while Government annulled the sales in 25 cases on grounds of hardship. The amount realized by sales was Rs. 2,87,720.

Redemption of Land Revenue.

43. The land revenue demands of 267 petty estates were redeemed during the year. These were mostly permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and the suburbs. The total annual rent was Rs. 605 and the price realized on redemption amounted to Rs. 17,413.

Miscellaneous revenue.

44. The total receipts under this head, including collections from forest lands in Government estates, amounted to Rs. 7,94,787, representing an excess of Rs. 3,96,795 over 1907-1908. The increase was mainly due to recoveries during the year of large sums in Purnea and Ranchi on account of survey and settlement charges.

Sale of Government estates.

45. Ninety-seven estates, covering an area of 2,510 acres, were sold during the year for Rs. 19,907, subject to a total revenue of Rs. 5,340. In addition to the above, ten plots of land, with an area of 156·015 acres, were sold revenue-free at a total price of Rs. 19,711, and one plot covering seven acres was sold free of revenue for Rs. 16,315.

Payment of revenue and rent by money-orders.

46. There was a considerable increase in the number of revenue money-orders and in the amount of land revenue and cesses thus remitted, which rose to Rs. 19,49,141 or by Rs. 2,41,567 over the preceding year. Arrangements for the payment of rent by money-order were in force throughout Bengal, except in the districts of Darjeeling, the Sonthal Parganas and Angul. The introduction of the system into the Chota Nagpur Division, which was kept in abeyance pending the discussion of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Bill, has now been effected. The total number of money-orders issued during the year was 42,459 (for Rs. 6,66,019) as against 42,949 (for Rs. 6,52,271) in 1907-08, while the percentage of refusals rose from 22·5 in 1907-08 to 26·9. A high percentage is to be expected, as use is likely to be made of the system mainly by tenants whose relations which their landlords are strained, but the increase is disquieting.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

47. The Bengal Cess Act, IX of 1880, is not in force in Angul, the Khondmals, Sambalpur and parts of the Sonthal Parganas, where it is being gradually introduced. In the 30 districts in which the Act is in force, the current demand on account of cesses showed an increase of Rs. 2,71,365, due mainly to revaluation proceedings and to revision of assessment of mines and forests in various districts. The total collections rose by Rs. 1,20,220. The percentage of collections on the current demand fell from 101·07 in the previous year to 98·9. In 17 districts collections were below the prescribed

standard, but the explanations given are generally adequate. In seven districts the percentage of collections on the current demand was below 95, and this was mainly due to the suspension of collections of cesses in flood-affected areas and decrease of voluntary payments caused by unfavourable agricultural conditions. Revaluation proceedings were in progress in 14 out of 30 districts in which the Cess Act is in force.

48. The total number of certificates filed was 141,013 compared with 139,044 in the previous year. The increase occurred under almost all heads. Disposals of cases fell short of institutions by 665. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 39,930, of which 7,631 were more than six months old. Proposals for the amendment of the Act are under consideration. **Certificate Procedure.**

49. The total number of proprietary interests in land entered in the registers under the Land Registration Act, 1876, was 1,065,533 at the close of the year. The applications made during the year for succession to interests, whether by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise, amounted to 56,857. The number of cases disposed of was 61,252 and the number pending at the close of the year was 12,153. **Land Registration.**

The lists of transfers of estates were regularly received from the Registration offices, Land Acquisition offices and the Certificate Departments of the Collectorates. As regards the Civil Courts, complaints were received from certain districts that these lists were not being received regularly, and such revised arrangements have now been made as will tend to obviate delay in the future. A fresh procedure was also prescribed during the year to secure prompt disposal of reports of transfers.

During the year new rules were issued by the Board providing for the creation of a separate staff to be employed exclusively on land registration work. These rules apply to all districts where mutations are at all numerous. Collectors have been empowered to increase or diminish this staff in accordance with a sliding scale based on the number of cases.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1908.]

50. The outturn of the year was 5,107 square miles of traverse survey and 1,311 square miles of topographical survey. The programme assigned to the Survey Department was in all cases completed. **Outturn for the year.**

51. The decision of the Government of India to remove revenue surveys from the field of operations of the Survey of India rendered it necessary to arrange for the constitution of a Provincial Survey Department working under the supervision of one or more officers of the Survey of India who were to act as a connecting link between Imperial and Provincial Surveys. Accordingly a scheme was submitted during the year for the constitution of an independent Survey Department for the Province under a Director to be recruited from the Imperial Service of the Survey of India who was to be assisted by a junior officer of the same service, and the creation of a separate graded service. This was sanctioned towards the close of the year by the Government of India and the Secretary of State, with the exception of the proposal for the formation of a separate graded service. It was decided that officers of the Provincial Executive Service and of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India should be deputed to survey work and draw an allowance of Rs. 100 in addition to their grade pay. Major R. T. Crichton was relieved of the control of survey operations in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and was appointed to be the Director of Surveys, Bengal, and a number of officers of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India, who volunteered for service in Bengal, were appointed to the new Provincial Survey Department. **Administrative changes.**

The traverse sections of Nos. 4 and 5 parties were amalgamated with the head-quarter sections of those parties and all traverse survey work in the province was placed under one executive officer with head-quarters at Hazaribagh. This move has reduced correspondence, and simplified accounts and, by making it possible to dispense with camp offices, has also resulted in a considerable saving of money.

The office of the Director of Surveys was also transferred from Dinapore to Hazaribagh.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Department of Land Records for the year ending 30th September 1908.]

General.

52. Survey and settlement operations were in progress in 14 districts. The main work of the Settlement Department lay in the districts of Patna, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Ranchi and Singhbhum. In addition, the settlement of certain zamindari estates in the Sonthal Parganas, and of the Majnamutha and other estates in Midnapore, the re-settlement of Angul and the revision settlement in Cuttack and Balasore were operations of considerable importance. The year's programme was fully carried out. Cadastral survey was completed for an area of 4,477 square miles and preliminary record-writing for 5,491 square miles, excluding the revisional operations in Orissa. The records of 5,194 square miles were attested and complete records were finally published for an area of 4,931 square miles. Rents were settled for 257,733 tenants, and the expenditure during the year was over 15 lakhs, the greater part of which will be recovered from the landlords and tenants in due course.

The total area in respect of which a record-of-rights has now been prepared in Bengal, under the control of the Director of Land Records amounts to over 44,000 out of 115,819 square miles. Progress during the last 22 years has averaged 2,000 square miles a year.

Administrative and other changes.

53. There were no administrative changes of importance, but the year has been distinguished by two important advances in the agrarian legislation of the Province. The progress of the Ranchi Settlement had brought to light many serious defects in the landlord and tenant law of Chota Nagpur. After prolonged deliberation a new code of agrarian law, the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, VI of 1908, was framed and the rest of the settlement work in Chota Nagpur will be conducted under the provisions of the new Act. One of its most important features is the extension to Chota Nagpur of the principle of the settled raiyat which is already in force in almost all other parts of Bengal. A new Sonthal Parganas Regulation (III of 1908) was almost simultaneously sanctioned by the Governor-General in Council. It removed from the settlement and rent regulations of the Sonthal Parganas various defects that had been disclosed by the progress of the settlement operations in that district during the past ten years, and specifically affirmed the incident of non-transferability which had been found to attach to raiyati lands over more than nineteen-twentieths of the district.

Land Revenue settlements.

54. Settlements of land revenue were in progress in certain estates in the district of Midnapore and were completed in several estates in the districts of Khulna and Angul.

Other settlements.

55. Operations not primarily undertaken with a view to the settlement of rent and revenue were in progress on a large scale in Bihar, the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur. Satisfactory progress was made in all of them.

Bihar.

56. The survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights of the district of Purnea was brought to a close. The two most important items in the year's work in Bhagalpur were the settlement of fair rents under section 105 and the commutation of produce rents under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Applications under section 105 numbering 1,284, and affecting 15,684 tenants, were disposed of, resulting in the enhancement of rents from Rs. 3,08,672 to Rs. 3,38,103 mainly on the ground of rise in prices. No less than 1,957 commutation cases were disposed of. In South Monghyr preliminary records were prepared for 912 square miles and records were attested for 1,223 square miles. The feature of the year's work in this area was the very extensive use that was made of the new section 109C of the Bengal Tenancy Act to effect an amicable settlement of the long-standing rent disputes between landlords and tenants in the southern portion of the tract. It was extremely difficult at the outset to get reliable information regarding the rents legally payable because the big proprietors dealt with their tenants through middlemen. It was known, however, that the numerous enhancements of rent, which had been passed on by the middlemen to the raiyats were, on account

of their frequency and amount, illegal under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act. After much negotiation the proprietors agreed to a reduction of rents. This amicable settlement has placed the relations of landlord and tenant of South Monghyr on a sounder basis than had existed for many years. Cadastral survey was extended to the district of Patna and 811 square miles were surveyed and the records were prepared for attestation.

Sonthal Parganas.

57. Settlement operations in the Sonthal Parganas have been in progress since the year 1898. The survey work has throughout been under the control of the Settlement Officer. During the year 824 square miles were cadastrally surveyed and a record-of-rights was prepared and finally published for the same area.

Chota Nagpur.

58. The programme of the year in Ranchi consisted of the cadastral survey and initial record-writing of 1,127 square miles, attestation of records for 856 square miles, final publication of records in an area of 1,618 square miles and the disposal of case-work in respect of 1,048 square miles. The whole programme was completed. The survey was completed in three months and the quality of the work was good.

The survey and settlement operations in the Dhalbhum estate in Singhbhum were initiated to prevent the possibility of illegal enhancements. The cadastral survey of 581 square miles was completed and the records for 586 square miles attested. The main subjects of dispute at the attestation stage were the rights of headmen and jungle rights. The original headmen nearly all belonged to the aboriginal races who cleared the tract. The statistics collected during attestation show that this class of headmen is being rapidly supplanted by non-aboriginals, and though the provisions of the new Tenancy Act may delay, they are unlikely to prevent, their eventual disappearance.

Minor settlements.

59. The operations for the survey and preparation of record-of-rights undertaken on the application of the landlords or tenants in certain zamindari estates in the district of Murshidabad were almost completed, while those in Khulna reached the stage of draft publication of records. In Khulna the large number of rent-free claims and the very complex nature of the sub-infeudation of tenures, which ran in some cases to 13 degrees, coupled with the unhealthiness of the area, rendered the attestation work very arduous. Minor operations, under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which were under Divisional Commissioner's supervision during the year ending the 31st March 1909, covered an aggregate area of 85,443 acres of Government estates and of 84,196 acres of zamindari estates.

Recovery of cost.

60. Operations for the recovery of the cost of survey and record-of-rights was carried on in Purnea, South Bhagalpur and the Sonthal Parganas and in several minor settlements. The total amount recoverable in Purnea was nine lakhs, of which 98·8 per cent. was collected, coercive measures being found necessary only for 2·1 per cent. of the demand. As usual, the tenants throughout the area showed the greatest eagerness to obtain their maps and extracts from the record-of-rights and almost the whole amount due from them was collected at the time of the distribution of these papers.

Revision and maintenance of records.

61. The revision settlement of Orissa, as a preliminary to the continuous maintenance of the records, made good progress, notwithstanding the dislocation of work caused by heavy floods. It is satisfactory that the changes in procedure, organization and staff, made in accordance with the experience of the previous year, were successful. The statistics furnished by the attestation proceedings clearly illustrate the necessity of keeping the settlement record up to date. The number of holdings dealt with was 352,872, and it was found that, during the ten years which had elapsed since the last settlement, ownership had undergone alteration in as many as 73 per cent. of the holdings, while the number of boundary changes was 33 per cent. of the number of plots. The revision operations are very popular with the raiyats, but a large number of zamindars still regard them with some disfavour.

The maintenance of land records in the district of Sambalpur proceeded satisfactorily. It has a special interest from the light it throws on similar problems awaiting solution in the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore. The year's work of the mutation offices established at Bettiah, Hajipur and Mahnar, under the Land Records Maintenance Act of 1895, gave further proof of the failure of the system introduced by that Act. The maintenance of records

and inspection of rent-rolls in Government and Wards' estates show a slight improvement. General rules on the subject were issued by the Board of Revenue during the year which will, it is hoped, lead to better results.

Utilisation of land records.

62. There was more extended appreciation than in previous years of the usefulness of the records-of-rights, village cadastral maps and thana index maps. It was naturally more marked in districts fully surveyed and settled than in districts where only small and isolated areas had been dealt with

Boundary marks.

63. District officers paid increased attention to the important subject of the inspection and maintenance of boundary marks. In Government and private estates taken together about 95 per cent. of the total number of marks were inspected, but of the damaged or missing marks only 31·6 per cent. were restored. The deficiency was greatest in Wards' estates, the Bettiah estate in Champaran being conspicuous in its failure to restore lost or damaged marks.

Waste Lands.

[Land Revenue Administration Report for 1908-1909.]

Leases of waste land.

64. The number of current leases granted in the 24-Parganas and Khulna tracts of the Sundarbans under the rules of 1853 is now reported to be 131. The rent payable on account of these leases is Rs. 1,31,056. The rules for the grant to large capitalists of waste lands in the Sundarbans are still under suspension. There were 19 renewals of such leases. The total number in existence is 280 with an aggregate area of 370,038 acres, and a present revenue of Rs. 50,486, which will eventually rise to Rs. 2,25,221. There are, as before, nine small capitalists' leases.

Reclamation.

65. The reclamation work at Fraserganj was practically completed during the year. The result of the experiment has, however, been disappointing, and Government has decided to lease the estate. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 39,392 and the total cost of reclamation work was Rs. 4,95,195, exclusive of items of expenditure on the improvement of the sea-face and the establishment of Fraserganj as a health resort.

Resumed estates.

66. Seventeen estates were resumed in the 24-Parganas portion of the Sundarbans (including Saugor Island) and 13 in the Khulna portion. The resumption was due, for the most part, to the failure of the lessees to comply with the terms of their agreements.

Government Estates.

[Land Revenue Administration Report for 1908-1909.]

Number and management.

67. The total number of estates under direct management, including estates of private individuals managed by Government, was 1,530 with a current demand of Rs. 29,09,289. The percentage of the cost of management was 7·83.

The general management of the Kolhan and the Chaibassa town khas-mahals in Singhbhum was placed in the hands of a Deputy Collector. The supervision of the tahsil establishment in Satkhira was transferred from the Subdivisional Officer to the Khas Mahal Deputy Collector of Khulna.

Improvements.

68. The total grant placed at the disposal of the Board of Revenue for management and for agricultural, sanitary and miscellaneous improvements amounted to over three lakhs. The unexpended balance of allotments for experiments and improvements was only Rs. 1,474. Expenditure on miscellaneous and sanitary improvements was smaller than usual, owing to the diversion of some of the money allotted to this head to other objects. Measures to prevent this in future are under consideration.

Education.

69. The total expenditure on education in the estates was Rs. 51,609 and was in excess of the Government grant by about Rs. 2,000. Both schools (1,824) and pupils (55,207) increased in number and the progress of education affords grounds for satisfaction.

70. The expenditure on roads and communications amounted to Rs. 1,34,111 against the Government grant of Rs. 80,244. The expenditure exceeded the grant in all Divisions except the Presidency, Tirhut and Chota Nagpur Divisions. The excess was provided from District Board, Municipal or other local funds. Roads and communications.

71. The year was a hard one for all who depend on land, and the raiyats in Government estates did not escape their share of the trouble due to bad harvests in some districts and the high price of food grains. In the Burdwan Division the condition of the raiyats was on the whole good, though in Midnapore the tenants were distressed during the first nine months of the year owing to the poor winter rice harvest of the previous year. The public health was generally good, but towards the end of the year small-pox appeared in several villages. In the Presidency Division the condition of the tenants was unsatisfactory in the first half of the year, but there was some improvement later on owing to better harvests, especially in the 24-Parganas and Khulna. Chronic indebtedness amongst the resident raiyats of the Manigram Estate in Murshidabad resulted in a number of sales of holdings to outsiders. There was an outbreak of cholera in Jessore. In the Patna Division the year on the whole was, owing to high prices of food grains, not a prosperous one, especially in the Bihar and Nawadah and the hilly portions of the Bhabua subdivisions where the paddy crops failed. Elsewhere, except in a few circles in the Gaya district where produce rents are the rule, the condition of the tenants was fairly good. The khas-mahal raiyats were not really prosperous in any district of the Bhagalpur Division. From an agricultural point of view, conditions were unfavourable. The outturn of the winter rice crops was poor and there was a considerable fall in the price of jute. Scarcity prevailed in the Government estates in Purnea, but there was no acute distress. The tenants in Monghyr suffered from outbreaks of plague and small-pox. In Darjeeling conditions were only fair. In the Sonthal Parganas the year was everywhere unfavourable. The mahua failed, and the other crops were all disappointing. The general condition of khas-mahal raiyats in Darbhanga was poor owing to famine and scarcity of water. In Saran their condition was satisfactory. In the Orissa Division tenants were fairly flourishing except in certain portions of the Khurda estate where there had been floods and bad crops. The general condition of the raiyats in the Hazaribagh khas-mahals was good. In Ranchi with a normal crop it was fair, but cholera and small-pox raged. There was a considerable failure of crops in Palamau, but the Government raiyats enjoyed the result of the very close attention given to the estate and were enabled to tide over the difficulties and they would have been prosperous, if the price of lac had not fallen. In the Kolhan in Singhbhum although the people suffered from scarcity in the early part of the year, an excellent harvest enabled them to recover their position. Condition of raiyats.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards and Attached Estates for the year 1908-1909.]

72. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year was 209, against 200 in the preceding year. The percentage of land revenue and cess paid to Government on the total demand was the same as in the preceding year, namely, 92·4 per cent. Many of the estates which were defaulters in the preceding year again defaulted heavily, in particular the Pachetgarh estate in Midnapore, and the Mukharji estate, the Panihati estate No. 1, and the Tagore estate in the 24-Parganas, though as regards the Tagore estate, a large portion of the balance is expected to be paid off from the sale proceeds of the Midnapore property. Number of estates and payment of Government demands.

73. The total payments made under this head were 67·4 per cent. of the total demands, against 63·4 per cent. in the preceding year. The Uttarpara and Sultangacha estates, in the district of Hooghly, both of Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

which are deeply involved in debt, were the heaviest defaulters in this respect.

Collection of rent and cesses.

74. The collections of rent and cesses fell from 95·7 per cent. of the current demand during the preceding year to 94·1 per cent. Failure of crops is the reason assigned in the majority of cases for short collections.

Balance of rents and cesses due to estates.

75. The total uncollected balance due to estates under management amounted to Rs. 1,16,37,856, or 121·2 per cent. of the total current demand, as against 128·9 per cent. in the preceding year. The Dumraon estate in Shahabad is responsible for 40·8 per cent. of this heavy balance. A considerable portion of the balance, particularly in the Dumraon estate, is reported to be altogether irrecoverable, either as being time-barred, or for other reasons. The Janbazar estate in the 24-Parganas again showed a balance of over Rs. 4,00,000, on a current demand of Rs. 1,50,000.

The number of certificates filed during the year under report exceeded the number filed in 1907-1908 by 1,021, but the percentage of realisations on these certificates fell from 32·5 to 25·8. In the Maheshpur estate, the certificate procedure was apparently applied to time-barred and fictitious demands, contrary to the policy uniformly followed by Government and the Board which has been that the certificate procedure should be allowed only in estates where the accuracy of the records and accounts could be guaranteed. Recoveries on amounts decreed fell from 45 per cent. to 27 per cent.

Payment of debts.

76. During 1908 the Court accepted the responsibility of new debts amounting to over Rs. 1,00,00,000, out of which the four estates of Maksudpur, Maheshpur, Sonbarsa and Uttarpara accounted for over Rs. 65,00,000. Accordingly although Rs. 51,83,452 were paid in liquidation of debts as against Rs. 35,99,997 in the previous year, the percentage of the amount paid to the total liability was the same as in 1907-1908, namely, 16·3 per cent.

Management charges.

77. The total cost of management was 10·5 per cent. of the total current demand, as against 10·7 per cent. in the preceding year. The only Divisions in which the percentage was below the prescribed limit of 10 per cent. are the Patna, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions. The general increase in the cost of management during the year was, as in the preceding year, mainly due to the payment of grain compensation allowanees.

Improvements.

78. The expenditure on works of improvement, schools and dispensaries was, on the whole, satisfactory. The total amount spent was Rs. 4,26,138, or nearly the same as during the year 1907-08. The agricultural experiments conducted in the various estates during the year were generally attended with poor results, the want of success being in almost all cases attributed to unfavourable weather conditions.

Education of wards.

79. The arrangements made for the education of wards and the results attained were on the whole satisfactory. There are now 11 inmates in the hostel which has been started at Hazaribagh.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[Land Revenue Administration Report; 1908-1909. Divisional Miscellaneous Reports, 1908-1909.]

Bengal Tenancy Act.

80. The Bengal Tenancy Act continued in force in the major portion of the Province, and worked fairly satisfactorily.

Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

81. During the year the laws relating to landlords and tenants in the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division (except Manbhum) were amended and codified in the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act (Bengal Act VI of 1908). The majority of the rules and the forms required under this Act have been prescribed, but a few are still under consideration.

Tenancy Law for Orissa.

82. Difficulties having been experienced in the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act, as partially extended to the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri, an inquiry was made with a view to framing a self-contained agrarian law for the Province of Orissa. A draft code consolidating these laws is now under the consideration of Government.

Rent-receipts.

83. The use of rent-receipt forms printed at the Government Press is confined to the Government and the Wards' estates. Their sale to the public has practically ceased, as private presses supply them at cheaper rates.

The instructions issued by the Board of Revenue last year with regard to the procedure to be followed in dealing with landlords who contravene the provisions regarding the preparation, retention and grant of receipts for rents, did not produce the desired result. In the area where the Bengal Tenancy Act is in force about 121 cases of this nature were brought to notice, of which 37 cases resulted in conviction and 69 remained pending. In a few cases the delinquent landlords simply were warned. In the Chota Nagpur Division (except Manbhum), where the new Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, is in force, 55 proceedings of this class were instituted in the district of Ranchi, but only one ended in conviction. In the Hazaribagh district the two cases instituted were still pending at the close of the year.

Rent suits.

84. Act X of 1859 is in force only in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri in the Orissa Division, and in Darjeeling and Manbhum. In the remaining districts of the Chota Nagpur Division rent suits are tried under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908. In Sambalpur such suits are tried by revenue officers who are vested with the powers of Munsifs and appeals lie to the Subordinate Judge.

In the Orissa Division 25,719 suits of all kinds were instituted, as against 27,506 in the preceding year. The decrease is common to all the districts except Sambalpur, and is mainly due to the fact that the zamindars in the affected tracts were debarred from taking coercive measures to realize arrears of rent from defaulting tenants by the terms on which they themselves were granted the suspension of land revenue which the local scarcity necessitated.

In the Chota Nagpur Division 7,082 suits for arrears of rent were instituted, as compared with 5,899 in the previous year. The increase was common to all the districts except Manbhum, where there was a slight decrease of 55 suits. The increases of 428 and 390 suits in Hazaribagh and Ranchi respectively are ascribed to the fact that the last day of two agricultural years fell within the year under report, and that suits had to be filed in order to avoid limitation. In Singhbhum almost all the suits instituted during the year came from the Dhalbhum estate. The number of appeals preferred in Ranchi fell from 113 in 1907-1908 to 33 in 1908-1909. This was due to the fact that the extensive use of the survey and settlement record by the Lower Courts afford fewer opportunities for contesting their decisions.

Use of record-of-rights in rent suits.

85. The result of enquiries at inspections of the work of Deputy Collectors who try rent suits as to whether they systematically make careful reference to the record-of-rights, where one has been prepared, is satisfactory.

Relation between landlords and tenants.

86. Relations between landlords and tenants are reported to have been satisfactory in all the districts of the Orissa Division. In the Burdwan Division and in the Presidency Division, with the exception of some areas in the district of Murshidabad, the conditions were on the whole peaceful. In parts of the other Divisions of the Province relations appear to have become more or less strained. Among other indications of this was the rise, common to all the Divisions except Orissa, in the percentage of the number of rent money-orders refused by the landlords to the number issued, from 22·5 in 1907-1908 to 26·9 during the current year. In the district of Monghyr the settlement operations tended to bring disputes to a head, while in Purnea litigation was increased by disputes over the settlement of fair rents. In the Bettiah subdivision of the Champaran district serious riots took place in the villages leased to certain indigo factories. An enquiry has been made into the causes of the disturbances and the matter is still under the consideration of Government.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authority.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 179—181.

Course of Legislation.

Acts passed during 1908-1909.

87. Nine Acts were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1908-1909, as follows:—

(1) *Bengal Act I of 1908* [*The Calcutta Port Amendment Act, 1908*].—This Act authorises the Vice-Chairman of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta to have his signature to debenture coupons engraved, lithographed, or impressed by mechanical process.

(2) *Bengal Act II of 1908* [*The Sambalpur (Evidence) Act, 1908*].—The object of this enactment is to bring the Sambalpur district into line with other districts in Bengal in regard to the recording *in extenso* of evidence in the Civil Courts.

(3) *Bengal Act III of 1908* [*The Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Act 1908*].—By this Act various amendments are made in the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871, with the object of providing greater safeguards against the overcrowding of pilgrims' lodging-houses, ensuring better inspection, and removing minor defects disclosed by practical working.

(4) *Bengal Act IV of 1908* [*The Bengal Repealing Act, 1908*].—The Howrah and Suburban Municipal Police Act, 1884 (Bengal Act IV of 1884), which had become obsolete in consequence of the abolition of the Suburban Municipality, and the release of the Howrah Municipality from liability for police charges is repealed by this Act.

(5) *Bengal Act V of 1908* [*The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1908*].—The objects of this Act are—

(1) to delegate certain powers of the Local Government to Commissioners of Divisions;

(2) to legalise expenditure from the District Fund on veterinary objects, on the training and employment of compounders and midwives, on the promotion of free vaccination, on tanks and wells which do not belong to, and are not under the control of, the District Board, on minor works of irrigation and on the acquisition of a residence for the District Engineer;

(3) to authorise the imposition of tolls on newly constructed or acquired bridges until the initial cost and the capitalised value of the cost of maintenance and renewal have been recovered;

(4) to permit District Boards to provide, or to contribute towards the provision and maintenance of, students' hostels;

(5) to require every District Board to appoint an Education Committee;

(6) to extend the provisions as to Sanitation (sections 87 to 91) to all District Boards, and to require every District Board to constitute a Sanitary Committee and to appoint a Sanitary Inspector;

(7) to provide more fully than before for the sanitation of Unions and the cleansing of villages, to empower Union Committees to control building, and to authorise these Committees to recover the cost of their operations by means of a cess;

(8) to ear-mark the road cess and prohibit its diversion to purposes other than those mentioned in section 109 of the Cess Act, 1880 (Ben. Act IX of 1880);

(9) to authorise the establishment of a Provident Fund for the benefit of employés of District Boards; and

(10) to remove various flaws and omissions in Bengal Act III of 1885 which experience of its working had brought to light.

(6) *Bengal Act VI of 1908* [*The Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908.*]—The objects of this Act are—

(1) to consolidate, simplify and re-arrange the greater part of the statute law relating to landlord and tenant in Chota Nagpur;

(2) to secure raiyats in Chota Nagpur in the enjoyment of their pre-existing rights (both statutory and customary), to ameliorate their condition, and to ensure their protection against oppressive landlords;

(3) to safeguard the interests of landlords in their *khas* privileged lands, and their interests in certain other directions, and to protect them against fraudulent complaints made by raiyats, and

(4) to remove ambiguities, defects and anomalies which had been found to exist in the previous law.

(7) *Bengal Act I of 1909* [*The Indian Lunatic Asylums (Amendment) Act, 1909*].—This enactment amends section 17B of the Indian Lunatic Asylums Act, 1858 (XXXVI of 1858), so as to admit of arrangements being made for sending lunatics from Calcutta to the asylums at Berhampore and Ranchi under the simple and inexpensive procedure provided by section 7 of that Act.

(8) *Bengal Act II of 1909* [*The Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Act, 1909*].—By this short Act five words are introduced into the Court of Wards Act, 1879, to admit of loans being made from the funds of an estate under the administration of the Court of Wards to another such estate.

(9) *Bengal Act III of 1909* [*The Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Act, 1909*].—This Act amends the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, 1876 (VI of 1876), with the object of imposing further checks on the reckless expenditure so prevalent among land-holders in the Chota Nagpur Division, giving increased facilities for the proper management of encumbered estates, and securing from further mismanagement by their proprietors estates which have been restored to solvency.

88. *The Bengal Excise Bill, 1909.*—This Bill, which was introduced in Council on the 30th January 1909, and passed after the close of the official year, is now Bengal Act V of 1909. The Act consolidates and amends the pre-existing Bengal Excise Law, as contained in Bengal Act VII of 1878 and Act XII of 1896 (in force in the Sambalpur District) and various amending Acts. It makes several material changes in the pre-existing law, and brings the Excise Administration of the district of Sambalpur into line with that of the rest of Bengal. Bill pending during 1908-1909.

Police.

[Report on the Administration of Police, 1908. Statistics of British India and Part II—Judicial.]

89. There was an outbreak of political crime of a very serious character. It began in December 1907 with the attempt to wreck the Lieutenant-Governor's special train, and culminated in February 1909 in the murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas, the Public Prosecutor at Alipore. Apart from murderous attacks on individuals, the incidents of greatest significance were the discovery of alleged conspiracies directed against the Government, the head-quarters being at Maniktola and in Midnapore. As regards the first of these, the proceedings only concluded, late in the current year, with the final conviction of a number of the accused by the High Court on appeal, while in respect of the latter, a special enquiry has been conducted by the Commissioner of the Division the result of which is still under the consideration of Government. The greatest difficulty with which the police had to contend was the reluctance of the public to co-operate with them in the detection and prosecution of crime. In part this may be due to terrorism, but it is also attributable to the deficient standard of public spirit which unhappily prevails Political crime.

PROTECTION.

in India and leads numbers of people, including too often those whose education and intelligence might have guided them aright, to shirk a public duty because it is irksome or attended with personal risk. So long as this spirit prevails, it is hopeless to expect that police work will attain to the same level of efficiency as it has reached in other countries. In view of the special difficulties which this and other causes threw in their way, it must be admitted that the police of Bengal achieved no small measure of success in grappling with political crime, while the staunchness and courage that was exhibited by many of the officers and men are deserving of all praise.

Professional crime.

90. A considerable measure of success was achieved by the Criminal Investigation Department, which is specially charged with the duty of dealing with professional crime. A number of dangerous gangs of professional convicts and thieves were broken up, and it is not too much to say that the organization of this department has for the first time placed the police in a position to cope successfully with this form of crime. The statistical results of the cases instituted during 1908 are unusually good, for out of a total of 405 persons prosecuted, no fewer than 382, or nearly 94 per cent., were convicted. The figures are the more striking when it is remembered that the department had not only to face the apathy described above, but, during the year under review, had its operations much handicapped by the requisition of the best of its personnel for political work. The publication of the *Criminal Intelligence Gazette* was a useful step towards the detection of crime, while the finger-print bureau continued to afford increasing assistance in the identification of professional criminals.

Ordinary crime.

91. Special efforts were made in Bhagalpur, Ranchi, Saran and in some other districts for the prevention, as opposed to the detection, of crime, and the question of giving a trial to the road patrol system, which has been introduced in Saran, in areas where dacoities and burglaries are numerous, is under consideration. The results of investigation by the department, especially in the case of burglaries, indicated the need for improvement in detective work.

Cognizable crime.

92. Cognizable crime showed a tendency to increase. The whole of this occurred under the heads of burglary and theft, and is to be attributed principally to the high price of food. True cases of burglary rose from 33,302 in 1907 to 39,161 in 1908, and the increase is shared by every district except Saran, Monghyr, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darjeeling and Bhagalpur. Although the number of cases declared to be maliciously false was very great, yet in the 24-Parganas, out of 180 false cases only one conviction under section 211, Indian Penal Code, was secured, and in Hooghly and Hazaribagh, where the false cases numbered 84 and 92, respectively, there were only two convictions in each. District Magistrates have been asked personally to scrutinize these cases with a view to satisfy themselves that complaints which are merely exaggerated are not recorded as maliciously false, and that in cases which properly fall under the latter category prosecutions are instituted whenever they afford a reasonable prospect of success. Remands were excessively numerous. The number of absconders continued to be large. The attention of Magistrates has been directed to the provisions of sections 59 and 78 of the Criminal Procedure Code, in accordance with which the services of zamindars, dafadars and chaukidars can be utilised for the arrest of proclaimed offenders.

Police reforms.

93. The reforms in the Bengal Police, which were sanctioned by the Secretary of State in 1906, were estimated to involve an annual addition to the cost of the force of Rs. 24 lakhs, of which $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs were to be spent in improving the pay and prospects of the superior ranks and $19\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs on the rank and file. Of the former figure, recurring expenditure to the amount of nearly 3 lakhs had been incurred up to the 31st March 1908, while $12\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs had been spent on the inferior ranks. Of the balance of $8\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, for which provision had still to be made, the reforms introduced during 1908-1909 involved an expenditure of Rs. 73,000, so that about two-thirds of the scheme has been completed. The remainder of the programme will be carried into effect as rapidly as financial exigencies permit.

Town patrol.

94. An improved patrol system has been devised for the Bengal Town Police. Its introduction has been attended with success everywhere, and it is hoped that it will result in the diminution of crime in municipal areas.

Chaukidari Reward Fund.

95. The special attention of District Magistrates and of the police was drawn to the fact that in spite of repeated directions that it should be expended with liberality, the balances of the Chaukidari Reward-Fund have steadily increased. It is regrettable that these funds, which are under the direct control of Magistrates, should not be utilized to encourage good work, for experience shows that rewards are no less effective than punishments as an incentive to special effort, and Magistrates and Superintendents, therefore, were again directed to make full use of the funds at their disposal. Trying Magistrates also were instructed to recommend rewards in all cases where chaukidars render efficient service, either in the arrest of criminals or by giving prompt information at the thana of anticipated breaches of the peace, and District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to see that rewards are presented in as public a manner as possible.

General condition of the Police.

96. Marked improvement has been effected in the smartness and efficiency of the police. The appointment of European Armed Inspectors and the improved instruction in drill at the Police Training College are largely responsible for this result, while the attention paid to athletics tends to render the general tone of the force more wholesome and manly, and promotes sympathy between officers and men.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for their destruction. Statistics for British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Wild animals.

97. The Chota Nagpur Division as usual showed the highest mortality from wild animals, viz., 312 deaths. The increase in the number of persons killed by wild animals from 840 in 1907 to 1,034 in 1908 occurred chiefly in the Bhagalpur Division. The depredations of a man-eating tiger in the district of Monghyr, for the destruction of which a special reward of Rs. 100 was given, account to some extent for this increase. Six deaths caused by elephants occurred in the Muzaffarpur district and four in the Darjeeling district. A special reward of Rs. 200 has been sanctioned for the destruction of each of the three rogue elephants which are doing damage in the Kalimpong subdivision of the Darjeeling district. The number of deaths caused by tigers rose from 355 to 455, the increase being principally in the districts of Monghyr, Ranchi, Cuttack, the 24-Parganas, Angul and Purnea. The marked decrease from 40 in 1907 to 22 in 1908 in the number of persons killed by tigers in the district of Hazaribagh is attributed to the payment of a special reward of Rs. 500 for every tiger killed within a specified area known to be frequented by a man-eater. Singhbhum and Khulna as usual showed a very high mortality. The number of deaths caused by wolves in the district of Hazaribagh increased from 47 to 75, notwithstanding the fact that a special reward of Rs. 20 for every wolf killed within the jurisdiction of certain thanas was offered. Deaths caused by leopards rose from 77 to 94.

Snakes.

98. The number of persons who died from snake-bite was 7,402 against 8,276 in 1907. The number of deaths from this cause decreased in every division except Burdwan where the number increased from 999 to 1,178.

Cattle killed by wild animals.

99. Eighteen thousand two hundered and seventy-two head of cattle were killed by wild animals against 16,966 in 1907.

Destruction of wild animals and snakes.

100. The total number of wild animals destroyed during the year under report was 1,683 against 1,604 in the preceding year. The number of wolves killed rose from 101 to 301.

Eighteen thousand six hundred and eight snakes are reported to have been destroyed, as against 20,499 in the preceding year, but it is doubtful whether much reliance can be placed on the accuracy of these figures.

The amounts paid in rewards for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 10,026-10 and Rs. 160-11 respectively, the corresponding figures for 1907 being Rs. 6,513-2 and Rs. 206-4-6.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

Reorganization.

101. A beginning was made in the matter of the redistribution of the city into four, instead of five, divisions and the substitution of Deputy Commissioners for Superintendents in charge. This change was sanctioned so far back

as 1906, but owing to various difficulties had not yet been effected. No other important reform was introduced, but the scheme for the reorganisation of the beat system in the town and suburbs received the assent of the Secretary of State in September 1908, and will obtain a partial trial during the year 1909.

Discipline. 102. There was a reduction in the number of departmental punishments, and a marked decrease in the number of officers and men judicially punished. The number of resignations and desertions was small. The general health of the force was good, as the percentage of admission into hospital was more than 20 per cent. lower than last year, and the average percentage of men absent daily from duty on account of sickness was 2·9 as against 3·4 in 1907. There was a steady increase in the number of both officers and men in the force who could read and write, and the numbers of those rewarded by titles, good conduct stripes, presentations and sums of money rose by nearly 60 per cent.

Results of cases. 103. The number of cases instituted in the Courts of the Presidency Magistrates was 31,820, a decrease of a thousand as compared with the previous year. Of these 6·7 per cent., or 640 more cases than in the previous year, were tried by the Honorary Magistrates. The number of old offenders convicted was 715, of whom 232 had four or more previous convictions. The number of persons identified by their finger impressions rose from 1,020 in 1906 and 1,059 in 1907 to 1,392 in 1908. There was a large increase in the number of persons treated as first offenders under section 562, Indian Penal Code.

Political crime. 104. Early in the year the Hindu festival *Ardhodaya Yog* took place after an interval of twenty years, and much care and forethought had to be expended upon the arrangements for the crowds of pilgrims who flocked from all parts of India. The festival passed off, however, without any untoward results, thanks to some extent to the useful work done by private persons. The year, however, will always be memorable for the discovery of the Maniktola Conspiracy on the 2nd May and the prosecution of those who were arrested before the Sessions Court at Alipore and the High Court in Calcutta. Connected with these cases were the murders of Norendra Nath Goswami, who had given evidence against the other accused while a prisoner in the Alipore Jail, and of Sub-Inspector Nanda Lal Banerji of the Bengal Criminal Investigation Department, who had traced one of the accused in the Muzaffarpur murder case. The former murder, which was committed by persons actually in custody in one of His Majesty's prisons, is unique in the history of Bengal; the latter was carried out by several persons in a crowded bazar. Finally, on the 7th of November, a determined attempt was made on the life of His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser, then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, by a young student who fired a revolver point-blank at him as he was entering the Overtoun Hall in College Street, where a lecture was about to be delivered. The attempt must have succeeded but for the extraordinary fact of the revolver twice missing fire, and the prompt and courageous intervention of Mr. Barber, General Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan. The conduct of the police throughout the year was worthy of the highest commendation. In a time of great strain and excitement the demands on their energies by cases of a new order and of the most momentous importance was met without neglect of their regular duties.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1908. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Judicial.]

Changes in jurisdiction. 105. During the year two permanently-settled estates forming part of pargana Bihia in the district of Shahabad in Bengal were transferred to the district of Ballia in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The village of Raipur Hasanpur and part of village Sambalpur Diara were transferred from the jurisdiction of thana Hajipur in the district of Muzaffarpur to the jurisdiction of thana Sonepore in the district of Saran.

The district of Khulna was removed from the Sessions Division of Jessore-Khulna and constituted a new Sessions Division with its head-quarters at the sadar station of that district, with effect from the 1st July 1908.

Judicial staff. 106. For Sessions work, the staff consisted of 19 Sessions Judges and one Additional Sessions Judge employed throughout the year. On the constitution

of Khulna as a judgeship, an addition was made to the permanent staff of District and Sessions Judges, the Additional Judge of Jessore-Khulna being appointed as the District and Sessions Judge of Khulna. Three Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. Besides the above, temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed for short periods in the districts of Midnapore, the 24-Parganas, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Patna to try special Sessions cases.

The Magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency Town, consisted of 367 Stipendiary and 1,066 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of six and a decrease of 125, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Three Special Magistrates appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were employed on criminal work at Shahabad. Of the 367 Stipendiary Magistrates, 216 exercised first-class, 104 second-class, and 47 third-class powers.

There were 145 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 983 Honorary Magistrates working during the year in the mufassal, one Bench having been abolished in Nadia, and five Benches having been created, viz., three in Khulna, one in Howrah and one in the 24-Parganas. Of the total, 121 were independent, and 24 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

107. There were reported during the year 240,904 criminal offences, an increase of 6,551 on the figures of 1907. **Offences reported.**

Of this total, 146,199 (or 8,212 more than in 1907) were under the Indian Penal Code and 94,705 (or 1,661 less than in 1907) under Special and Local Laws. The increase under the first head was most marked in the Presidency Town, Midnapore, Ranchi, Puri and Hazaribagh, and the decrease under the second in Howrah, Cuttack, Gaya and Nadia.

108. Including cases pending inquiry at the close of 1907, the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year, was 37,754, or 15·6 per cent. of the number reported during the year compared with 17·1 in 1907. Of this number, the great majority, that is 31,935 cases or 1,454 less than in 1907, were dismissed complaints, while the number of cases declared false after trial or inquiry was 5,819, a decrease of 910 on the figures of the preceding year. **False cases.**

109. Of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 202,285 were found to be true, and of these 157,056 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 9,427 cases. Compared with 1907, the number of cases found to be true and of cases brought to trial shows an increase of 7,817 and 3,482 respectively. **True cases.**

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

1.—Magistrates' Courts.

110. Of the 157,056 cases brought to trial, 42,246 were in the Courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency Town, and 114,810 in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal. **Total cases for trial.**

111. The number of cases instituted before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, exceeded by 2,081 the file of 1907. The number of cases under Special and Local Laws was 33,075, or 417 more than in 1907, while cases under the Penal Code rose from 7,507 to 9,171. The increase under the former head was most marked in offences under the Calcutta Municipal Act, which rose from 8,888 to 11,474, and in offences under the Port Act, which rose from 1,153 to 1,758. The number of offences under the Police Act, however, fell from 12,305 to 10,625, and under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals from 7,660 to 6,321. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was an increase in offences affecting the public health, safety, etc., from 3,697 to 5,104, and in offences against property from 2,200 to 2,620. The decrease was most marked in offences affecting the human body. **(A) Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.** **Cases for trial.**

Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, disposed of 29,174 cases during the year, of which 27,059 were decided by Stipendiary Magistrates, 1,915 by Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 200 by Benches.

The corresponding figures for 1907 were 29,799, 28,436, 1,226 and 137. There were 106 cases pending at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 65 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder finally decided by Magistrates, 1,542 under ordinary, and the others under summary, procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates rose to 16,426 from 15,709 in 1907 notwithstanding the decrease in the number of cases decided during 1908.

The number of cases instituted in the Court of the Municipal Magistrate was 13,016, of which 11,472 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 13,027, of which 12,075 were decided under the summary procedure. Two cases remained pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1907, the number of cases instituted and disposed of shows an increase of 2,658 and 2,679, respectively. The work in the Court of the Municipal Magistrate shows a steady increase since its establishment in 1901, the figures of the institutions of 1908 being 4,968 more than the yearly average of the first five years of the working of that Court.

Result of trials.

112. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 32,692. Of the persons tried, 4,022 were acquitted or discharged, 28,400 were convicted, four persons died, eight persons were transferred for trial to other districts, 96 were committed to the Sessions, and 162 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 7,353 were convicted, and 3,050 acquitted or discharged. The results of the trials before each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates	3,626	26,346	87·8
Benches of Magistrates	114	135	54·2
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly ...	282	1,919	87·1

Of the persons convicted, 1,722 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentence in the case of 11 persons including terms of solitary confinement; 133 were punished with simple imprisonment; 23,187 with fine; and 232 with whipping. One hundred and thirty-two of the persons sentenced to fine, and 26 of those sentenced to whipping, were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Twenty-five sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Two thousand six hundred and five convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 266 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 255 were imprisoned in default—3 after reference to the High Court under section 123 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 252 under orders of the Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year; 73 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 189 persons were released on probation under section 592, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under Special Laws in the case of 194 persons. The number of persons released upon probation of good conduct shows a further rise to 189 from 119 in 1907, the figures for which were the highest of the decade preceding.

Before the Municipal Magistrate, 15,251 persons were under trial during the year, of whom 4,638 were convicted, 605 were acquitted or discharged, 5 died, escaped or were transferred for trial to other courts, and 3 remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was 4,757, or 469 more than in 1907. The percentage of conviction was 96. Of the persons convicted, 8,618 were punished with fines, and the rest were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rule and bye-laws of the Corporation.

(B) Magistrates outside Calcutta.

113. At the opening of the year, 2,951 cases, excluding cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 114,878 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 114,574 were disposed of, 3,198 remaining

Cases for trial.

pending at its close. Cases brought to trial exceeded the number in 1907 by 1,415. Under the Indian Penal Code the increase was mainly in offences against property (3,768), in offences affecting the public health (418), and in offences against the public tranquillity (282). There was, however, a considerable decrease in cases under Special and Local Laws. The variations under the other heads call for no remark.

An increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from 15, and a decrease from 16, districts. The increase was marked in Patna (674), Ranchi (626), Purnea (547), Sambalpur (429), Gaya (407), and Puri (402); while the decrease was greatest in Howrah (926) Muzaffarpur (561), Nadia (487), and Birbhum (316).

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	435	48
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	60,934	26,617
Honorary Magistrates	10,941	898
Benches of Magistrates	6,392	8,155
Special Magistrates	25	...

Of the 435 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, 47 were decided in the exercise of special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by Deputy Commissioners of the Chota Nagpur Division and the Sambalpur district, this being an increase of 23 on the figures for 1907. Several Deputy Commissioners in Chota Nagpur made inadequate use of their special powers under section 34 of the Procedure Code.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 132 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year exceeded the number decided in 1907 by 1,188. This increase is confined to Subordinate Stipendiary and Special Magistrates, who disposed of 4,408 and 23 cases more, respectively, than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates, Honorary Magistrates and Benches shows a decrease of 219, 1,914 and 1,108, respectively, compared with 1907.

The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 615 against 834 in 1907. The largest number of cases was decided by the District Magistrates of Puri (127) and Bankura (74). The District Magistrate of Jessore did not dispose of any criminal cases.

Results of trials.

114. Of the total number of cases 1,322 were committed or referred to the Sessions, and 113,252 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In the latter, 164,246 persons were accused, this number being 7,786 more than that of 1907. Of the total, 96,722, or 58·84 per cent., were convicted; and 67,524, or 41·2 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1907, 58·4 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted.

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 41,639, or 43·2 per cent., were convicted, and 54,751 or 56·8 per cent., were acquitted or discharged.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1908 was 6,626 compared with 6,529 of 1907. Of these, 25, all of whom with one exception were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than six months. The person in custody was undergoing trial in Purnea on a charge under section 419 of the Indian Penal Code, and was unable to furnish bail. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 952, against 825, at the close of 1907.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates	5,233	12,436	70·3
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	54,274	75,043	58·
Honorary Magistrates	7,452	8,749	54·
Special Magistrates	28	26	48·1
District Magistrates	537	468	46·5

Of the persons shown above as convicted, the numbers tried summarily by Benches of Magistrates were 8,377, by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates 30,325, by Honorary Magistrates 767, and by District Magistrates 64.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	44,108	13,081
On summary trial	6,353	33,180

Punishments.

115. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment	Rigorous	22,653
	Simple	718
Fine ...	With imprisonment	2,543
	Without imprisonment	67,563
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	989
	Additional punishment	195

A term of solitary confinement was included in 342 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 59 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a Reformatory School. Two thousand five hundred persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 2,376 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failure to comply with the order. More extended use was made during the year of the provisions of section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, which permits of the release of first offenders on probation of good conduct, the number so dealt with being 485, as against 268 in 1907, 223 in 1906, and 199 in 1905. Against persons who had previously been so released proceedings were subsequently taken in 87 instances, and 97 persons were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 2,918 persons were required to execute bonds under section 106 to keep the peace, of whom 1,365 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,894 were for terms not exceeding 15 days, 15,318 for terms not exceeding 6 months, 5,395 for terms not exceeding 2 years, and 82 for terms exceeding 2 years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 1,184 persons, 21 fewer than in 1907.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 5,43,283. Realisations amounted to Rs. 4,74,729, and Rs. 61,938 was paid as compensation to complainants out of the fines realized.

Miscellaneous Proceedings.

116. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates in the mufassal during the year.

Code of Criminal Procedure.

Chapter VIII.

117. There were 1,411 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 6,127 persons were involved, an excess over 1907 in both particulars. Of the persons concerned, 1,653 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace under section 107. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Howrah (502), Jessore (483), Khulna (466), Patna (428), Midnapore (376), Murshidabad 360), and the 24-Parganas (351). The increase in the number of proceedings of this class was marked in Jessore, Patna, Muzaffarpur and Champaran, while the most notable decrease as compared with 1907 was in Khulna and Howrah.

In 1,568 cases, 3,499 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 2,823 of them. Of the latter, 2,699 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 323 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and 2,376 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year. One person was inadvertently sentenced to imprisonment for a term of two years by a Deputy Magistrate of Darjeeling without reference to the Court of Session, but the matter having transpired, action was promptly taken under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Chapters X and XII.

118. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 665 cases, and in the case of 19 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under

Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by Magistrates during the year was 2,056, an increase of 191 on the figures for 1907.

119. Under section 250 of the Code, 740 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, the accusations brought by them having been adjudged to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 757 persons, and orders were made absolute against 193. Section 250, &c.

120. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 323,309, as compared with 318,935 in 1907. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 119,592, or 26·9 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 27·2. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 50,754 in 1907 to Rs. 72,217 in 1908. Witnesses.

Of the total number in attendance, 343,536 (77·6 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 72,159 (16·3 per cent.) on the second, 20,175 (4·6 per cent.) on the third, and 6,831 (1·5 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 487 less than the number so detained in 1907. This improvement is particularly satisfactory, in view of the larger number of witnesses examined during the year under review.

The districts in which the largest proportion of witnesses were detained for more than three days were Muzaffarpur (5·2 per cent.), Hazaribagh (4·7 per cent.), Gaya (3· per cent.), Patna (2·9 per cent.), Shahabad (2·5 per cent.), Birbhum, Sambalpur (2·4 per cent. each), Burdwan (2·2 per cent.), and Hooghly (2·1 per cent.). The results show a marked improvement in the case of Birbhum which headed the list in the preceding year.

II—Courts of Session.

121. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,322, or 148 more than in 1907; and the number of cases disposed of by Courts of Session, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,293, which is also in excess of the number disposed of in 1907 by 138. There were 150 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments increased in 22 districts, decreased in 9, and in one district the figure was the same as in the preceding year. The increase was prominent in the following districts:—in Manbhum from 22 to 42; in Hazaribagh from 16 to 34; in the Sonthal Parganas from 46 to 62; in Cuttack from 21 to 35; in Gaya from 26 to 40; and in Patna from 63 to 76. On the other hand, the decrease was pronounced in Purnea from 54 to 39, and in Jessore from 58 to 46. The number in Shahabad (51) was the same as in 1907, and, as in that year, the number of commitments was largest in the 24-Parganas (86). Commitments.

122. There were 3,869 persons, or 985 more than in 1907, under trial before Courts of Session during the year. The cases of 3,342 persons were decided, and 512 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 3,342 persons tried, 1,935, or 57·9 per cent., were convicted, and 1,345 were acquitted or discharged and the cases of 62 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Results of trials.

123. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year:— Punishments.

Death		23
Transportation	For life	120
	For a term of years	61
Imprisonment	Rigorous	1,393
	Simple	4
Fine		45
Whipping		11

In the case of 31 of the 1,390 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement, and in the case of one youthful offender the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 25 of the persons sentenced to fine, and on 9 of those sentenced to whipping.

Besides the above, 323 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (27 for terms not exceeding one year and 296 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and 8 persons, who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds—7 with, and 1 without, sureties—to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	9
	6 months	147
	2 years	439
	7 years	1,066
Exceeding 7 years		58

Fines to the amount of Rs. 5,050 were imposed by Courts of Session, compared with Rs. 14,041 imposed in the preceding year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 3,039, compared with Rs. 3,324 in 1907. The amount of fines realised and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 1,082 in 1908, compared with Rs. 1,528 in 1907.

Jury trials.

124. The number of persons tried by jury during 1908 was 852; and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 772 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 80.

In the case of 39 persons, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict and referred the case to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given below under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials with the aid of Assessors.

125. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors during the year under review was 1,798, with the results that in the case of 1,309 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors; in the case of 220 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 269, he differed from the opinion of both the Assessors. The corresponding figures of 1907 were 1,422, 1,064, 150 and 208, respectively.

Duration of cases.

126. The average duration of Sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, was reduced from 35·1 days in 1907 to 34·8 days in 1908. This decrease in the average duration of Sessions trials is satisfactory, in view of the fact that the number of witnesses examined exceeded that of 1907 by 1,816. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Sambalpur (59·4 days), Patna (55·5 days), Cuttack (44·4 days), Burdwan (43·6 days), and Jessore (41·6 days). The increase in the duration of cases from 34·8 days to 55·5 days in Patna and from 25·1 days to 41·6 days in Jessore is noteworthy, while there was a satisfactory reduction from 53·3 days to 19·7 days in Darjeeling, from 48·6 days to 25· days in Purnea, from 53·1 days to 32· days in the 24-Parganas, and from 43·7 days to 25·6 days in Gaya.

Witnesses.

127. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 20,038. Of these, 13,160 were examined, and 6,878 discharged without examination. In 1907, the corresponding figures were 11,344 and 4,533, respectively.

Of the total number in attendance, 10,266 (51·2 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 4,884 (24·4 per cent.) on the second day, 2,338 (11·7 per cent.) on the third day, and 2,550 (12·7 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day is slightly larger than in 1907. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials was Rs. 39,607, as compared with Rs. 24,971 in 1907.

III.—High Court.

Commitments to the High Court.

128. Four cases were pending at the opening of the year, and 67 cases were brought to trial in the High Court during the year. Of these, 65, inclusive of the case of three European British subjects committed or transferred from Burdwan, Puri and the 24-Parganas, were tried during the year, and 6 remained undecided at its close. Altogether 93 persons were tried, of whom 73 were convicted and 20 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 588, and the average duration of cases from commitment, 43 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

129. At the opening of 1908, there were 32 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year, 675 appeals were preferred, and 653 were decided, leaving 54 pending at its close. The numbers preferred and decided were higher by 60 and 38, respectively, than in the preceding year. The pending file shows an increase of 22.

Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 564 were from Courts of Session, 95 were from Presidency Magistrates, and 14 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Two appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of appeals.

130. There were 543 appeals against sentences of Courts of Session decided during the year. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 458 instances, reversed in 33, and modified in 50. Two cases were remanded for re-trial.

Ninety-two appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency Town were decided during the year, the orders being affirmed in 81 cases, and modified in 11. One of these appeals was from the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, sentencing the accused, who was the printer and publisher of a vernacular newspaper, to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000 for an offence under section 124A of the Indian Penal Code. The order of the Lower Court was confirmed. Fifteen appeals from sentences of Deputy Commissioners were decided during the year, the orders being confirmed in 12 cases and modified in 3.

The results of the appeals decided during the year as affecting individuals were that the appeals of 782 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that, in admitted appeals, sentences on 218 appellants were confirmed, 103 reduced or altered, and on 70 annulled. In the case of 5 persons a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Three appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. One appeal was dismissed, and in another the order of acquittal passed by a Deputy Magistrate was reversed and the accused person was convicted and sentenced under the original charge of giving false evidence. In the remaining case where the charge was one of joining an unlawful assembly, the order of acquittal passed by a Sessions Judge on appeal was reversed, and the accused persons were convicted and sentenced by the High Court.

II—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

131. There were 119 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,910 appeals were preferred, 3,935 were decided, and 94 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 480 more than in 1907. In the appeals decided during 1908, 6,467 persons were concerned. The appeals of 2,582 of these, or 39·9 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 1,779 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful, 843 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence, and 1,128 were acquitted, while in the cases of 134 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal was 67·4, 13· and 17·4, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the same proportions were 45·8, 21·7 and 29· per cent. Taking into account admitted appeals only, these results were less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

132. In the Courts of Magistrates, there were 192 appeals pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,752 appeals were preferred, 3,756 were decided, and 184 remained pending at its close. Four appeals were either transferred to other districts for hearing or abated on the death of the appellants. The excess over 1907 in the number of appeals preferred was 171.

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 6,900. Of these, the appeals of 1,485 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,922, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 4,407 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 63·8 per cent. Of the remainder, 675 appellants, or 9·7 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed up on them, and 1,728, or 25· per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 87 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and the cases of three persons were referred to the High Court. These results show little variation as compared with those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code.

133. One reference under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from the verdict of the Jury was pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 25 were made during the year. Twenty-two of these references were decided during the year; four remaining undecided at its close. The result of the 22 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the jury was accepted in five cases, set aside in 16, and modified in one.

References under section 374, Criminal Procedure Code.

134. Twenty-two references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1908, and 4 were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Twenty-four were decided during the year, and two were pending at its close. In the references decided, 25 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentence on 18 was confirmed, and in the case of 5 their sentence was commuted to transportation for life. The remaining two persons were acquitted.

References under section 341, Criminal Procedure Code.

135. The cases of two persons, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court and disposed of during the year. In one case, the conviction was approved and sentence passed upon the accused person. In the other the High Court made an order binding down the accused under section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code to be of good behaviour for a period of one year.

Revision.

136. During the year 134 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and four were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 127 were decided and 11 remained pending. The number reported was 33 less than in 1907. In 41 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside, and in 20 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 18 cases and enhanced in 8. In the remaining 40 cases the High Court declined to interfere. The number of cases reported to, and decided by, the High Court in 1908 under section 438 of the Code was the smallest in the past ten years.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure orders were passed in 888 cases, a decrease of 105 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 870 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 18 were taken up on review of the periodical Sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 509 were rejected. Of 361 rules issued, 163 were finally discharged, 114 were made absolute in their entirety, the orders complained of were modified in 50 cases and quashed in 3, while in the remaining 31 cases a new trial was ordered.

In 15 of the 18 cases taken up by the High Court on review of Sessions statements, the orders passed by the Lower Court were not disturbed. In the remaining three cases, the sentence was enhanced.

Applications for transfer.

137. Ninety-three applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (80 original cases and 13 appeals) from one court or district to another were on the files during the year. Of these, 87 were dealt with during the year, and six remained pending at its close. Thirty were summarily rejected, and in five cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 52 cases, rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 39 and refused in 13 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

138. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 3,201 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The number was less than in 1907 by 18. The applications of 1,648 persons were rejected, and as regards 624, the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 58 persons were reversed; in 13 instances proceedings were quashed, and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the cases of three persons. The cases of 252 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 603 persons, new trials or further enquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

139. The cases of 2,516 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was less by 56 than in 1907. Of the total, the applications of 1,376 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 297 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 21 persons were modified, and those affecting 198 persons were reversed. In the cases of 54 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 496 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 74 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

140. The cases of 79 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 90 in the previous year. Of these, 71 were dealt with by Magistrates, 5 by Courts of Session, and 3 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, 5 claimed to be tried by a mixed jury.

In the cases of persons disposed of by Magistrates, 42 were convicted and 29 acquitted. The convictions were in 14 cases for offences under Special and Local Laws, in 13 cases for offences affecting the human body, in 10 cases for offences against property, in 3 cases for offences against public justice, and for contempt of lawful authority and in 2 cases for insult.

In the cases before the Court of Session, two accused were convicted, and 3 acquitted. The convictions were for offences affecting the human body.

Of the cases of the three persons decided by the High Court, two were committed by the District Magistrates of Burdwan and Puri for trial for offences affecting life and under the Railway Act and the third was transferred by the Sessions Judge of the 24-Parganas for trial for an offence affecting life. One was convicted and two were acquitted. The largest number of European British subjects was tried in Burdwan (22), in the 24-Parganas (18), in Darjeeling and Howrah (14 each).

Inspection.

141. The Sessions work in Hooghly, Cuttack, Patna, Darbhanga, Purnea, Ranchi, Purulia, Nadia and Berhampur came under the observation of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Caspersz and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Coxe when inspecting the Civil Courts at those stations after the close of the year. At Darbhanga the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Caspersz devoted considerable time to the inspection of the Sessions records and also visited the Courts of some of the Magistrates.

Remarkable features and results of criminal work.

142. The most noticeable feature of the Criminal Judicial Administration of the Province in 1908, as in the previous year, was the appearance of offences against the State. During the year under review, 57 persons (47 in the 24 Parganas, 6 in the Presidency Town, 3 in Midnapore, and 1 in Khulna), against 33 in the previous year, were under trial for such offences. Of these, 7 were convicted, 9 acquitted or discharged, 2 died, escaped, or were transferred, and 39 remained under trial at the close of the year. The most notable of these cases was the Alipore Conspiracy case, in which the accused after a preliminary trial which lasted from May to September, were committed to the Sessions in September 1908. The trial before the Additional Sessions Judge lasted from the 19th October, 1908 to the 14th April 1909, and judgment was delivered on the 6th May 1909. In addition to these cases, 29 persons were under trial in Midnapore under the Explosive Substances Act VI of 1908, of whom 26 were discharged, and 3 remained under trial at

the close of the year. One person was prosecuted under the Newspapers (Incitements to Offences) Act, VII of 1908, in the Presidency Town, and was convicted, while there were 117 prosecutions under the Printing Press Act in the Presidency Town, of which 107 resulted in convictions. The numerous prosecutions of the special character above indicated imposed a considerable strain upon the Sessions and Magistrates' Court, but the High Court has been pleased to observe that, despite this fact, the ordinary work of the Courts was, on the whole, well and expeditiously dealt with.

Receipts and charges.

143. Debiting, as usual, to the Administration of Criminal Justice, a portion of the salaries of Judicial Officers fixed according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 26,85,972. Of this amount, Rs. 15,82,844 were for the salaries of Judicial Officers, Rs. 1,20,961 for fixed and temporary copying establishment, Rs. 83,274 for process-servers, Rs. 3,71,516 for other establishments, and Rs. 5,27,377 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 12,22,526. Of this amount, Rs. 5,45,324 were under fines, Rs. 1,24,746 under process-fees, Rs. 1,48,096 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 2,95,214 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above and Rs. 1,09,146 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges exceeded those of 1907 by over thirty-five thousand and three lakhs of rupees, respectively.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN SCHEDULED DISTRICTS.

Sonthal Parganas and Angul.

144. The number of cases brought to trial in the scheduled districts of the Sonthal Parganas and Angul (including Khondmals) was 7,005, an increase of 403 on 1907. The total number of persons under trial including those remaining from the previous year was 10,522, of whom 4,185 were acquitted or discharged and 5,995 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial 1,837 were for theft, 907 for criminal force and assault, 780 for criminal trespass and 1,797 for offences under Special and Local Laws. The punishment of whipping was inflicted in 177 cases, being less than nine per cent. of the cases in which it might have been awarded. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 685; of these 127 were wholly or partly successful in their applications.

Jails.

[Report on the Administration of the Jail Department for the year 1908. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Judicial.]

Jail population.

145. An outstanding feature of the year is the striking increase in the jail population. Not only did admissions increase from 78,891 in 1907 to over 101,000 in 1908, but the daily average number of prisoners rose from 15,275 to 16,853. The increase in the number of under-trial prisoners admitted in recent years is particularly striking. Against 29,946 admissions in 1905 and 33,101 in 1907, the number in 1908 rose to 44,804.

Detention of under-trial prisoners.

146. The average period of detention of under-trial prisoners in district and central jails rose to 34·1 days in Sessions cases and 17·4 days in other cases, from 27·4 and 15·6 days respectively in 1907; and in subsidiary jails from 15·6 days to 16·3.

Opening of a Juvenile Jail.

147. One new jail—the second class district jail at Alipore known as the Juvenile Jail—was opened. It is used for adolescent prisoners, and the opening of it marks another step in the separation of the different classes of prisoners.

Jail accommodation.

148. In consequence of the increase in the jail population, the daily average number of convicts exceeded the number for whom accommodation is provided in no less than 19 out of the 37 jails, while the accommodation in the under-trial wards was found inadequate in 22 jails. There was temporary over-crowding in several other jails, but it was generally found possible to relieve this by means of transfers. The question of increasing the capacity of the jails in the Province, either by the construction of a new central jail or in other ways, is now under the consideration of Government.

Mortality.

149. A second outstanding feature of the year is a regrettable increase in the death-rate. The daily average number of sick prisoners of all classes shows a considerable increase over 1907. The ratio of sick, however, only increased from 34·2 to 36·5 per 1,000 prisoners, which is less than the proportion in

1905 and the same as in 1906. The death-rate in 1907 was 17·5 per mille, which was far the lowest death-rate on record in the Province, and the average for the period 1900 to 1907 was 24·3. In 1908, however, the death-rate rose to 30·9 per mille, the total number of deaths among all classes of prisoners being 522 compared with 268 in the previous year. Though the general unhealthiness of the year throughout the Province is mainly responsible for this abnormal increase, there were several other contributing causes, among them, overcrowding in the jails and the incarceration of persons who were in feeble health owing to scarcity. The chief causes of death among the prisoners were tubercle of the lungs, dysentery and cholera. Seventy-eight convicts died of tubercular diseases of the lungs against 45 in 1907. Diseases of the bowels were particularly prevalent, and are responsible for 7·4 of the total increase of 13·4 deaths per mille among convicted prisoners. Cholera occurred in 16 of the district and central jails, and to it were due 57 deaths compared with 3 only in 1907. The outbreak was, in almost all cases, traced to outside infection. Dysentery also shows a marked increase, which is attributable to the general unhealthiness of the year. Owing to the exigencies of the service, Captain W. E. H. Foster could not be spared to carry on the campaign against this formidable disease which had been very successful in the Midnapore Jail in 1907. It is noteworthy that, in spite of the unhealthy season, the number of deaths from malaria again showed a decline.

Discipline.

150. The number of offences committed by convicts was 28,688, against 25,734 in 1907. The increase in the number of offences is due to the increase in the number of convicts. The number of floggings increased from 83 to 116. This increase was almost entirely due to the large number of floggings in the Buxar Central Jail. In spite of the increase in the number of convicts there were only 14 escapes, which is the same number as in 1907. Of these 14 persons, 11 were recaptured, as was also one prisoner who escaped in 1907.

Warders.

151. The punishments inflicted on warders numbered 1,583, an increase of 243 on the previous year. In the majority of cases such minor punishments as fine and extra drill were imposed, but 39 warders were dismissed and 40 were degraded or suspended. The decrease in the number of desertions, from 112 in 1907 to 41 in 1908, is most satisfactory, and appears to indicate that the improvement in the pay of warders sanctioned in August has enhanced the attractions of the service.

System of guarding prisoners.

152. The duty of guarding the prisoners is largely entrusted to convict overseers and convict warders. The chief argument in favour of this system is economy, to which efficiency and discipline are necessarily subordinated. Considerable difficulty is now experienced in finding convicts suitable for these positions owing to the steady increase in the proportion of re-convicted prisoners, who are not eligible for selection, which rose from 4,462 in 1907 to 6,970. Moreover, there can be no doubt that the system of employing convict guards was to some extent responsible for the murder in the Alipore Jail of Norendra Nath Goswami, the approver in the Alipore conspiracy case. A full enquiry was made into the circumstances attending the murder, and Government dealt suitably with the officers whose negligence or misconduct facilitated the commission of the crime. At the same time, the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that radical improvements are necessary in the system of guarding prisoners, and is giving earnest consideration to proposals which the Inspector-General of Prisons has submitted on the subject.

Jail manufactures.

153. The total earnings derived from the manufactures carried on in all classes of jails amounted to Rs. 4,56,127, as compared with Rs. 5,37,106 in 1907. The cash earnings amounted to Rs. 3,10,012, against Rs. 3,50,581 in the previous year. The average earnings per head of convicts sentenced to labour has fallen from Rs. 46-12 in 1906 to Rs. 40-7 in 1907 and Rs. 32-3 in 1908. These earnings in central jails vary from Rs. 134-6 per head in the Presidency Jail, where the principal industry is printing, to Rs. 23-13 in the Hazaribagh Jail, where the convicts are employed in weaving blankets, in pounding aloes and the various minor industries. The quinine industry has been concentrated at the Juvenile Jail at Alipore, as the work is well suited to youths. More than four million pice-packets were made up and despatched to post offices during the year.

Assistance to prisoners after release.

154. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society continued its useful work during the year. Seventy-six ex-prisoners in all received assistance from the Society. The annual grant of Rs. 3,000 from the Claude Martin Fund was received from the Commissioner of Police, and 1,949 released convicts received help from this source.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1908. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Changes in jurisdiction.

155. Two permanently-settled estates forming part of pargana Bihia in the district of Shahabad were transferred to the district of Ballia in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The figures for area and population are those of the census of 1901.

Judicial staff.

156. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Province during 1908 consisted of 14 High Court Judges, 20 District Judges, 2 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and four Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, 2 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 36 Subordinate Judges, and 170 Munsifs. In addition, 8 executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 6 the powers of a Munsif.

The temporary staff employed consisted of an Additional District Judge in the 24-Parganas for Land Acquisition throughout the year, and 21 Additional Subordinate Judges for three months each.

The permanent judicial staff in the district courts was increased by the addition of a District Judge consequent upon the erection of Khulna into a separate Judgeship.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted.

157. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1907 was 888, including 16 pending suits received by transfer from other Courts; and the number instituted during 1908 was 1,189, including 21 suits received by transfer from other Courts and 1 remanded for retrial during the year, making a total of 2,027 for disposal in 1908. Of the suits instituted during 1908, 649 were for money or moveable property, 129 were mortgage suits, and 61 for immoveable property.

The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 82,82,761-1-3, compared with Rs. 50,37,229-12-11½ in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

158. The number of suits decided in 1908 was 1,069, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 958. The number of suits under trial was 120 more than at the commencement of the year. There were 236 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 67 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided 117 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 47 were withdrawn with leave, 30 were determined by compromise, 64 were decreed on confession, 258 were decreed *ex-parte*, 20 were dismissed *ex-parte*, 10 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, 317 were decreed after contest, 176 were dismissed after contest, and in four cases the plaints were rejected.

Cases under the Extraordinary Jurisdiction.

159. At the commencement of the year 4 suits were pending in the High Court in its Extraordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction, and 8 suits were transferred to it during the year. Nine were disposed of and three remained pending at the close of the year.

Probates and Letters of Administration, etc.

160. There were disposed of during the year 527 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 4,690 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards' Act, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of Receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.). Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written

statements after time, and for summonses as to chamber applications, were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master.

References to take accounts, etc.

161. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year, was 154. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 278 cases. Of the total number of references, 277 were disposed of by the Registrar and the Official Referee and their Assistants.

Proclamations under section 287.

162. During the year, the Registrar settled the proclamations of sale by the Sheriff in the ordinary course of execution in 37 cases, in all of which it was found necessary to examine witnesses. He also settled 20 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 32 cases under the Civil Procedure Code, and in 292 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the Original Jurisdiction.

163. The number of appeals from the Original to the Appellate Side of the Court pending at the commencement of 1908 was 25, and 66 new appeals were preferred. Of these appeals, 4 were dismissed for default and 30 were decided; the decrees of the Court of First Instance were affirmed in 20 cases, modified in 8, and reversed in 1. One case was remanded for retrial. Fifty-seven appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, of which one was pending more than two years.

Small Cause Court reference.

164. There was no reference from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

Transfers from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

165. Twelve cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Causes Court Act were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 13 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that Court. All the applications were granted. Of the 25 cases for disposal, 5 were decreed and 6 dismissed after trial, 1 was compromised, 3 were withdrawn with leave, and 2 were decreed on confession. The remaining 8 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Two applications under section 622 of the Code of Civil Procedure to call for records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 13 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these 8 applications were refused, in 1 case the rule was discharged, and in 4 cases the record was called for and the High Court directed a re-hearing by the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Two cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

166. The number of cases pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 201, and the number instituted during the year was 269. Of the 470 cases for disposal, 169 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded in 35 cases, the insolvents obtaining relief in 134, and two cases were struck off. Of the persons who sought relief in the cases disposed of, 76 were traders within the meaning of the Insolvency Act, 68 were private persons, and 27 were persons employed in public and other offices.

Miscellaneous applications.

167. There were also disposed of during the year 19 applications for *ad interim* protection, and 1,514 applications of a miscellaneous character.

Duration of sittings.

168. For the hearing of original suits and applications one Judge sat alone for 25 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 77 days, three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 102 days, and a Division Bench consisting of two Judges sat for one day. The Insolvent Court engaged the time of one Judge for 16 days. Appeals from the Original Side occupied a Bench of three Judges for 21 days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

169. No appeal from the Original Side was pending from 1907. Three were admitted during 1908.

Receipts and Expenditure.

170. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1908 were Rs. 8,52,029-11-4 and Rs. 3,83,364-14-3 respectively.

Taxing Office.

171. The number of bills taxed during the year was as follows:—

Between Party and Party	...	...	660
„ Attorney and Client	...	...	330

The court-fees for the taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 18,291. The sum is also included in the item "Other fees realized by means of stamps."

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

Jurisdiction.

172. The district of Khulna was removed from the District Judgeship of Jessore-Khulna and constituted a new District Judgeship with its head-qurters at Khulna with effect from the 1st July 1908. The statistics of Jessore for 1908 therefore include those of Khulna for the first half-year and those of Khulna are for the second half-year only.

The village of Raipur Hasanpur and part of village Sambalpur Diara were transferred from the jurisdiction of thana Hajipur in the district of Muzaffarpur to the jurisdiction of thana Sonepore in the district of Saran.

Original suits instituted.

173. The number of suits instituted in 1908 was 380,159, a decrease of 9,668 on the figures of the previous year. The decrease occurred in each class of suits, the institutions for title suits, suits for money and rent suits showing decreases of 7·1, 2·4 and 1·4 per cent., respectively. The number of title suits instituted was 48,534, against 51,985 in 1907.

The total value of suits instituted in 1908 amounted to Rs. 8,35,50,652, showing an increase of over 84¾ lakhs over the total for 1907. The increase is accounted for chiefly by the institution of several title suits of exceptionally high value in Darbhanga.

Local distribution.

174. Excluding Jessore and Khulna, there was a decrease in the number of suits instituted in 1908 in all the districts with the exception of Hooghly, Purnea, Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Murshidabad and Gaya.

The decrease was most marked in Saran, Cuttack, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Darbhanga. The diminution of original litigation which has continued since 1907 may be assigned to the prevalence of scarcity in most of the districts during the period.

Excluding Jessore and Khulna which, as forming one Judgeship, occupied the first place in regard to the number of institutions in previous years, the largest number of suits (41,054) was instituted in the district of the 24-Parganas. The number of money suits (18,406) in this district was the largest in the Province. In Midnapore institutions were between 40,000 and 30,000 The largest number of rent suits and title suits (18,716 and 5,855, respectively) was instituted in that district. The second place in respect of the institution of title suits is occupied by 24-Parganas. Institutions were between 20,000 and 30,000 in the districts of Nadia, Hooghly, Bhagalpur and Murshidabad, and between 10,000 and 20,000 in Purnea, Cuttack, Burdwan, Darbhanga, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Birbhum and Bankura. In Chota Nagpur and Shahabad institutions were between 5,000 and 10,000, Patna and Gaya, with 4,823 and 2,745 respectively, continue to show the lowest number of institutions. Including the figures of Khulna for the first half of the year, the institutions of Jessore numbered 38,975. The figures of Khulna for the second half of the year were 11,129.

Nature of suits instituted.

175. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show:—

		Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
Not exceeding	Rs. 10 ...	14,652	50,650	2,618
	50 ...	69,471	90,523	11,718
	100 ...	28,963	26,227	3,823
	500 ...	26,947	18,879	18,218
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated		3,356	1,957	7,157
Total	...	143,389	188,236	48,534

In suits for money or moveables 58·6 per cent., and in rent suits 74·9 per cent., were for sums less than Rs. 50.

In suits under the rent law, 99·4 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 45 per cent. were mortgage suits, 41·3 for immoveable property, and 5·7 for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value over two-thirds of the total litigation of the province. All the 49 suits instituted during the year which were valued at over a lakh were title suits.

Number of suits disposed of.

176. In addition to the 380,159 suits instituted and the 69,899 suits pending trial from the previous year, 10,487 suits were revived, or received on remand or review, making a total for disposal of 460,545. The number of suits disposed of was 385,973, showing a decrease of 14,271 on the figures of 1907.

Of the total disposed of, 3,62,152 were decided by Munsifs, 11,252 by Subordinate Judges, 12,021 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 548 by District and Additional Judges. The Munsifs' courts are almost entirely responsible for the falling-off in disposals, and as regards districts, the decreases in Saran (4,203), Midnapore (3,897), Bhagalpur (3,571), Darbhanga (3,535) and Cuttack (2,608) are noticeable.

Results of suits decided.

177. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 77,282 cases, or 20·1 per cent., of which 52,769 were dismissed for default; in 67,461 cases or 17·5 per cent., a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 241,230 cases, or 62·4 per cent. Plaintiffs were slightly more successful than in the preceding year.

Of the 65,904 suits decided on contest, 53,363, or 80·9 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 12,541, or 19·1 per cent., in favour of defendants.

Applications for re-trial.

178. The proportion of applications for re-trial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex-parte* was 8·6, the numbers being 20,175 and 231,941, respectively. The applications were successful in 10,289 cases, or 50·9 per cent., the proportion being above the normal of the three preceding years.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

179. The suits disposed of by Munsifs were 14,440 less than in 1907. The decrease is under both contested and uncontested suits, being 1,300 and 13,140 respectively on the figures of the previous year.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif employed throughout the year was 2,057. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 25·8 per cent. of the total.

The number of contested suits decided by Munsifs in 1908 was 60,124, or 16·6 per cent., of the total—an average per Munsif of 341. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 17·7, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure, 13·1. The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows a decrease of 11,214 on a comparison with 1907.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges,

180. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges in 1908 was 11,252, an increase of 199 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided under the Small Cause Court procedure and occurred in both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 4,636, and under the Small Cause Court procedure 6,616; of these 42·8 per cent. and 19·7 per cent., respectively, were contested. These percentages show little variation, as compared with the previous year.

and by Small Cause Court Judges.

181. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 12,021 original suits, of which 2,292 were contested.

Average duration of cases.

182. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided during the past year by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement:—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested	188	312	164	...
	Uncontested	184	195	87	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested	...	58	57	77
	Uncontested	...	42	38	46

The results show that the marked increase observed in 1907 in the duration of contested cases tried under the ordinary procedure by District Judges and Munsifs has disappeared, while the duration of such cases tried by Subordinate Judges shows little variation from the preceding year. Considerably less expedition than is desirable was displayed by Small Cause Court Judges in the disposal of cases in their Courts.

Pending suits.

183. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 74,662, as against 69,899 in the previous year. The increase of the pending file is unsatisfactory, in view of the decline in the work coming before the courts.

Of the pending cases, 674 had been pending for more than a year, 2,897 for more than six months, and 30,475 for more than three months. The figures show an appreciable reduction in the number of suits pending for more than six and three months, but a perceptible rise in the number pending for more than a year, which is entirely due to the figures for the Munsifs' Courts. Of the suit pending over one year, 240 were in the Courts of Munsifs, and 434 in the Court of District and Subordinate Judges, the latter showing a decrease of one only on the figures of 1907.

The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Hooghly (104), Muzaffarpur (93), Bankura (60), Burdwan (54), Khulna (50), Nadia (42), and the 24-Parganas (40).

The increase in the number of long-pending suits in Hooghly is considerable, especially in the case of the Superior Courts, and is due to the fact that the Additional Subordinate Judge who was employed in the district during 1907 was not available in 1908, and also to the deputation of one of the Munsifs of the district elsewhere for part of the year. In Muzaffarpur the rate of disposals fell off during the year in almost all the Munsifs' Courts, while the outturn of the Superior Courts again diminished, owing, it is stated, to their attention having been largely devoted to numerous pending cases of a complicated nature. Further, the District Judge was compelled to devote considerably more time to criminal work than was the case in the previous year. In Bankura the greater proportion of the long-pending suits was in the Superior Courts, and although the District Judge was required to deal with considerably more criminal work than in the preceding year, the results attained cannot be held to have been entirely satisfactory, inasmuch as additional assistance was given to the staff during the year. In the case of Burdwan also the number of long-pending cases was mostly confined to the Superior Courts, whose working—despite the fact that the staff was strengthened from time to time—cannot be regarded as otherwise than disappointing The fact that Khulna was made a separate Judgeship during the year apparently led to some disorganisation of the files of that district, and this resulted in an increase of the long-pending arrears, the greater portion of which belonged to the Courts of the Munsifs. In Nadia, it is explained that the majority of the long-pending suits were analogous, while in the 24-Parganas the number of such suits was appreciably smaller than in the preceding year. Temporary assistance was afforded after the close of the year to those districts where the arrears were found to exceed the power of disposal of the normal staff.

Execution proceedings.

184. There were 60,985 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 268,438 such applications were made during the year. Realisation was completed in 101,344 cases and partial in 58,714. In 102,444 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 61,972 remained pending at the close of the year. As in the previous year, execution proceedings in the district of Cuttack were most markedly unsuccessful, the percentage of totally infructuous proceedings being very high (59 per cent.). This is unsatisfactory, and the attention of the District Judge has been called to the matter. The total amount realised in Courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 1,76,94,398.

Debtors were imprisoned in 148 cases, moveable property was sold in 4,969, and immoveable in 47,851.

Miscellaneous cases.

185. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 56,832 in 1907 to 57,207. The number disposed of rose from 57,366 to 58,829, and the number pending fell from 13,605 to 12,621. Of the cases disposed of, 25,525 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed, 15,953 were decided *ex-parte*, and 17,351 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 51·9 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 118 had been pending more than a year, of which the largest number was in Chota Nagpur (45) and Burdwan (31).

The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 11,998 in number, representing a decrease of 907 on the figures of the preceding year. Of these, over two-thirds were applications for the deposit

of rent. Disposals numbered 12,446, and the pending file fell to 1,309. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was, as usual, highest in Hooghly (1,152), followed by Bhagalpur (1,069), the 24-Parganas (771), Shahabad (556), Muzaffarpur (525), and Midnapore (503).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

186. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1908, and the number pending at its close, was 23,811, 24,452 and 2,424, respectively. These figures show an increase of 2,653, 1,437 and 745, respectively, as compared with the previous year. Three applications under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (III of 1899, B.C.) were instituted during the year. Number of suits.

The increase in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those not exceeding Rs. 10 in value. The largest proportion of the increase was in suits valued at between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000.

The total value of the litigation in the Presidency Small Cause Court was Rs. 43,04,648 in comparison with Rs. 34,73,285 in the preceding year.

187. The average duration of contested and uncontested cases was 38·6 and 27·4 days, respectively. The figures for 1907 were 34·5 and 29·1 days, respectively. The increase in the duration of contested cases is attributed to the increase in the number of suits of high value. Average duration of cases.

188. Of the 24,452 suits disposed of during the year, 1,544 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 19,516 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 3,389 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 3 the plaint was either rejected or returned. Mode of disposal.

Compromised	6,816
Decreed on confession ...	4,080
Decreed ex-parte	8,599
Dismissed ex-parte	21
Total ...	19,516

Of the 2,424 suits remaining under trial at the close of 1908, 132 had been pending for more than three months, against 43 so pending at the close of the preceding year.

189. Of the 36,793 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with in the Presidency Small Cause Court, of which 790 were pending from the previous year, 35,944 were determined and 849 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter, 253 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of, 29,520 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 4,011 were returned as wholly infructuous, and 2,413 were transferred to other Courts. The total amount realised was Rs. 9,62,052, as compared with Rs. 9,62,112 in 1907. Execution of decrees.

190. In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 111 cases, and sale of moveables in 455. Imprisonment of judgment-debtors to enforce the execution of decrees was resorted to in 39 more cases than in the previous year. The number of cases in which the sale of moveables was ordered shows a further decrease of 54, as compared with 1907, the figures of which year were the lowest of the previous decade. Coercive processes.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

191. Under section 15 of the Letters Patent, 66 appeals were filed during the year, and 25 were pending at its commencement. Of the total 34 were decided, and 57 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 27 less than in 1907. Of the number undecided, one was pending for more than two years and the rest were pending for less than a year. One hundred Third Appeals were filed during the year, and 84 were pending at its commencement. Of these appeals, 77 were decided, and 107 remained pending at the close of the year. Appeals under the Letters Patent.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

192. The number of First and Second appeals from the Decrees and Orders of the Provincial Courts as Courts of Original and Appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the past year, is shown in the margin. The figures include appeals from the Courts of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The institutions of First Appeals from Decrees and Orders and of Second Appeals from Decrees and Orders were, respectively, 135, 25, 87 and 84 more than in 1907.

	Pending at the end of 1907.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1908.
FIRST APPEALS.				
From Decrees ...	1,004	672	530	1,146
From Orders ...	348	308	342	314
SECOND APPEALS.				
From Decrees ...	3,576	2,972	3,030	3,518
From Orders ...	205	364	302	267
Total ...	5,133	4,316	4,204	5,245

Appeals decided.

193. The disposals of First Appeals from Decrees and Orders and of Second Appeals from Decrees and Orders show an increase of 36, 45, 755 and 115, respectively, on the figures of the previous year. The increase in disposals is apparently due to the fact that the services of the normal staff of Judges were available for a longer period than in the previous year.

Appeals pending.

194. At the close of the year, there were pending 1,460 First Appeals, of which 1,146 from decrees and from orders, and 3,785 Second Appeals, of which 3,518 were from decrees. The total exceeds the number pending at the close of 1907 by 112.

Results of Appeals.

195. Of the 530 appeals from Original Decrees decided during the year, 91 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. Of those decided after contest, 253 decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 69 reversed, 61 varied, and 56 remanded.

Of the 3,030 appeals from Appellate Decrees decided during the year, 214 were uncontested, and 1,184 were dealt with under section 551 of the Civil Procedure Code. The number heard and determined was 1,632, and in the result 1,131 decrees of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 205 reversed, 68 varied, and 228 remanded.

Of the 644 Appeals from Orders decided during the last year, 81 were uncontested, 165 were dealt with under section 551 of the Civil Procedure Code, and 398 were decided after trial. Of the last, 259 orders of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 70 reversed, 17 varied and 52 remanded.

The following table shows the result of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

		Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeal from	Original Decrees ...	57	196	26	103
	Appellate „ ...	452	679	139	134
Miscellaneous Appeals ...		125	132	45	42

One appeal was decided by the High Court from the original decree of a Munsif. The decree of the lower court was reversed.

In four Miscellaneous Appeals from orders of Munsifs, the High Court affirmed the order of the Lower Court in two instances, and a remand was ordered in the other two.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

196. At the opening of the year 76 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 43 were pending for orders. Sixty-two new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 46 were struck off or compromised, 8 were despatched to England, and 127 appeals—1 of 1903, 14 of 1905, 49 of 1906, 24 of 1907, and 39 of 1908—were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 60 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of Appeals to the Privy Council.

197. The results of six appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in three instances and reversed in one, while two appeals were remanded.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

198. There were 13,476 appeals instituted in 1908, an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 551. It is noticeable that the continued increase in the institutions of appeals is maintained in spite of a large falling off in the original litigation coming before the Courts. Appeals instituted.

Of the number instituted in 1908, 6,426 were in rent suits, 5,527 in title suits, and 1,523 in suits for money or moveables. The number shows an increase in the institutions of appeals in rent suits, but a decrease in the other two classes.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 1,193 and 3,799, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the Subordinate Courts in 1908 was Rs. 28,46,084, being less than the total of 1907 by over a lakh and seventy thousand rupees.

The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by Subordinate Courts during the year, was 46,334, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 27·2 per cent., as against 26·2 in 1907. The highest percentages were 53·4 in Patna, 45·1 in Gaya, 38·1 in Shahabad, 37·5 in Chota Nagpur, and 35·5 in Muzaffarpur; and the lowest was 16·4 in Purnea. The reduction of the percentage in Darbhanga from 52·8 in 1907 to 29·2 is noticeable.

Excluding Jessore and Khulna, the number of appeals instituted in 1908 was larger than in the previous year in eight districts and smaller in ten. The largest increases were in Murshidabad (726), where a considerable number of the appeals preferred were against the decisions of Settlement Officers, Patna (374), Midnapore (324), and Nadia (323), and the noticeable decreases were in Purnea (591) and Saran (137). Elsewhere the variations were less than 100.

199. The number of appeals decided (12,982) was more by 1,114 than in 1907. In the Courts of District and Additional Judges, disposals increased by 847, and in those of Subordinate Judges by 267, as compared with the previous year. The increase in the disposal of appellate work is satisfactory, especially in the case of District and Additional Judges. Appeals disposed of.

Excluding Jessore and Khulna, the general increase in disposals was spread over 11 districts, the largest being in the 24-Parganas (634), Purnea (536) and Patna (417). In the 24-Parganas, a considerable number of the appeals were disposed of by the District Judge whose outturn was the highest among the District Judges in the Province during the year under review. In Purnea the increase in the disposal of appellate work was due in considerable measure to the temporary appointment of a Special Judge in that district for the purpose of hearing appeals from the decisions of Revenue Officers. The result in the case of Patna is due to the fact that a very small number of appeals were disposed of by the Subordinate Judges in the previous year.

200. There were 7,566 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 884 more than at the end of 1907. The pending file of appeals was the highest since 1898. Appeals pending.

The number of appeals pending for more than one year increased during the year, there being at its close 257, as compared with 121 in 1907. The largest number of the appeals pending over one year was in Shahabad (105) and in Cuttack (78). The figures of Shahabad, however, represent three batches of analogous appeals, and are, therefore, not actually heavy. The number of year-old appeals in Cuttack shows a perceptible decrease, as compared with the previous year.

201. The result of the decisions of the Lower Courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—In 6,855 cases, or 52·7 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed, in 1,304 cases, or 10·4 per cent., it was modified, and in 2,254, or 17·3 per cent., it was reversed. The relative proportions of the above figures call for no explanation. The results are more favourable to the Lower Courts than those of the preceding year. Six hundred and thirty-three appeals were remanded, and 1,936 were either not prosecuted, or dismissed for default. Result of appeals.

202. There were 2,416 miscellaneous appeals instituted during the year, and 2,428 were disposed of, 654 remaining pending at the close of the year. The number pending is 19 in excess of the number in the previous year. Miscellaneous appeals.

PROTECTION.

General.

203. The most marked feature of the year under review was the further decrease which occurred in the number of original suits instituted in the mufassal Courts. The disposals, though in excess of the institutions, were, however, considerably below the figures of the previous year, and the result accordingly was a considerable increase of the pending file as compared with 1907. There was an increase in the number of suits pending for more than a year, the greater proportion of which belonged to the Superior Courts. The volume of appellate work coming before the Subordinate Courts was in excess of that of the previous year, and, though the number of disposals exceeded those of the previous year and fairly kept pace with institutions, the arrears, both as regards total and the number of cases pending for more than a year, were appreciably larger than at the end of 1907. The appellate arrears of the mufassal Courts at the end of the year under review were the highest since 1898. District and Additional Judges devoted 2,572 days to civil work, as against 2,533 in 1907. The increase in the amount of civil appellate work disposed of by these officers is gratifying, particularly in view of the fact that a larger number of Sessions cases had to be disposed of than in the previous year. There was a further increase of institutions on the Appellate Side of the High Court during the year, but the disposals, in spite of a considerable increase as compared with the previous year, failed to keep pace with the institutions, and there was consequently a perceptible increase in the pending file. The number of First and Second Appeals preferred to the High Court during the year under review was the highest in the last decade with the exception of 1904.

Inspection.

204. A temporary addition to the staff of High Court Judges was applied for and sanctioned shortly before the close of the year, in order to enable the Courts in the mufassal to be inspected. The following courts were inspected: those at Hooghly, Cuttack, Patna, Darbhanga, Purnea, Ranchi and Purulia by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Caspersz; and those at Krishnagar and Berhampore by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Coxe. The congestion of the record-room observed at Cuttack will be obviated by the construction of the new building to which administrative approval has been accorded. On his journey from Patna to Darbhanga, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Caspersz paid a short visit to the Civil Courts at Muzaffarpur. During his visit to Berhampore, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Coxe made a brief inspection of the Lalbag Munsifi, and his inspection of the Courts at Krishnagar resulted in the reference to the High Court of certain points of procedure upon which action is being taken.

The Courts of 10 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 73 Munsifs were inspected by District Judges during the year 1908. The total number of Courts inspected was thus slightly larger than in the previous year. The High Court recognise that the heavy call now made upon the time of a District Judge by his ordinary duties renders it extremely difficult for many officers to devote more than a minimum of attention to this important branch of their administrative work. In two districts (Gaya and Purnea) only was the full amount of inspection done by the District Judge during the year, while the number of inspections was noticeably small in Muzaffarpur, Midnapore and Cuttack. The attention of those District Judges, whose inspections were inadequate, has been drawn to the matter.

Provincial Insolvency Act, III of 1907.

205. The Provincial Insolvency Act, III of 1907, came into force, and the rules framed by the High Court under section 51 of that Act simultaneously came into operation.

Control of pleaders' clerks.

206. Rules were framed by the High Court and came into operation from 1st July, providing for the registration and control of pleaders' clerks, the excessive number employed by pleaders, or representing themselves as pleaders' clerks, having led to an unsatisfactory condition of affairs. Similar action was also taken with respect to the clerks of mukhtars who practise in the Criminal Courts.

Receipts and charges of the Civil Courts.

207. The receipts of the Civil Courts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 85,07,913, a decrease of Rs. 25,575 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 43,29,781, an increase of Rs. 20,589 on those of 1907. Including the amount realised on account of duty* on probates, etc., there was a profit to

	Rs.
*In the High Court	(a) 5,67,612
In other Courts	(a) 1,36,579
	*7,04,191

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1908-09.

Government from civil litigation of Rs. 41,78,132, or Rs. 46,164 less than in 1907, and, exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 34,73,941.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

Receipts.		Rs.	Charges.		Rs.
In stamp ...	Process fees	15,34,132	Salaries of Judicial Officers		19,40,600
	Other fees	64,02,364	Establishment	Process-servers	4,41,812
In cash or special stamps.	Fines	1,699		Others	13,20,455
	Copying and comparing fees.	3,66,851	Copyists' fees		3,03,374
	Other receipts	2,02,867	Contingencies and refunds		3,23,540
	Total ...	85,07,913	Total	...	43,29,781

Receipts show a decrease on the previous year's figures of over Rs. 25,000. The decrease is most marked under the head "Other receipts." The increase in expenditure is under all heads except "Contingencies and Refunds," and is most marked in charges for copyists, which show an increase of more than Rs. 11,000 over the figures of 1907.

ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE IN SCHEDULED DISTRICTS.

Angul and the Sonthal Parganas.

208. The total number of suits instituted during the year in the Civil Courts in the Scheduled Districts of Angul (including the Khondmals) and the Sonthal Parganas was 14,215. The number of money suits was 8,420, of rent suits 4,872, and of title and other suits 923. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 16,500. The number disposed of (including the number of suits transferred to Courts in other Provinces) was 14,090; of this number 2,910 suits were contested and 498 were disposed of by arbitration. The total number of Appeals from Decrees presented to the Civil Appellate Courts of the districts was 622 and the number disposed of was 540. Out of 123 Miscellaneous Civil Appeals 108 were disposed of. For execution of decrees 11,040 applications were made and the number disposed of was 9,412. Except in the last two particulars the figures are below those of 1907.

Registration.

[Statistical returns with explanatory note of the Registration Department in Bengal, 1908. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial, and Part IX.—Administrative and General.]

Changes.

209. Two new offices were opened during 1908, one at Banki, in the district of Cuttack, and the other at Soro, in the district of Balasore. A joint office, opened temporarily at Jajpur, in Cuttack, in the month of August to meet extra pressure of work, was retained till the end of the year. The experimental office at Latihar, in the district of Palamau, which had worked at a loss since its opening in 1904, was abolished.

Re-organization.

210. The re-organization of the department has now been completed in almost all its details. The important question of providing suitable buildings at the cost of Government for sub-registry offices was discussed during the year, and a satisfactory solution of it awaits only the advent of more prosperous finances.

Statistics.

211. The total number of registrations of documents affecting immoveable property, moveable property and wills increased from 948,380 in 1907 to 1,057,347 in 1908, *i.e.*, by 11·5 per cent., while the total income and total expenditure increased respectively from Rs. 12,66,324 to Rs. 13,96,938 and from Rs. 6,44,869 to Rs. 7,76,142. The increase in expenditure was due to the re-organization of the department. The increases in 1907 over 1906 had been 16·2, 16, 16 and 13 per cent. respectively.

Registrations in the various Divisions.

Burdwan.

212. Registrations increased in all the districts of the Burdwan Division except Burdwan, where there was only a small decrease of 43 deeds on the figures of 1907. The largest increase (21·2 per cent.) occurred in Midnapore. The increases are mainly ascribed to the failure of crops in 1908, and the consequent dearness of food grains. In Midnapore, mortgages and

bonds increased by 55·2 per cent. and 42·2 per cent. respectively, as money-lenders were, it is reported, unwilling to advance money except on the security of land. In the districts of Birbhum and Howrah, mortgages increased by 19·5 and 19 per cent. respectively. On the other hand, there was in almost all the districts an appreciable fall in the number of perpetual leases registered owing to the absence of new settlements and to the demand of the rent-receivers for high rents and premia to which the cultivators were unwilling to agree.

Presidency. 213. Except in Jessore, where there was a slight decrease of about 1 per cent., the number of registrations increased in all the districts of the Presidency Division. The increase in the 24-Parganas (14·5 per cent.), the bulk of which was contributed by a sharp rise in mortgages and bonds, is attributed to the high price of food grains and the impoverished condition of the poorer classes. In Murshidabad, the number of perpetual leases, which had advanced by 73·3 per cent. in 1907, increased further by 33·9 per cent. on the figures of 1907. This rise was due to settlement of chaukidari and other lands by landlords.

Patna. 214. Registrations increased in all the three districts of the Patna Division, the percentages being 14·7 in Patna, 25·3 in Gaya and 26·3 in Shahabad. In Patna and in Shahabad, the increase is ascribed to scarcity and to the survey and settlement operations in progress in the districts. Perpetual leases increased in Patna by 42·1 per cent. In Shahabad, there was an abnormal increase of 71·1 per cent. in term leases on account of the registration of 1,500 documents in settlement of a dispute between the Dumraon Raj and certain zamindars of the district of Ballia in the United Provinces. In Gaya also, the increase is ascribed to scarcity, the severity of which was tempered by the issue of *takavi* loans by Government.

Tirhut. 215. In the Tirhut Division registrations increased in Darbhanga by 10·8 per cent. on the figures of 1907. The unsatisfactory agricultural conditions in this district, in some thanas of which famine was declared after the close of the year 1908, were responsible for the expansion.

Bhagalpur. 216. There was an increase of registrations in all the districts of the Bhagalpur Division, except in Bhagalpur where, owing to the distribution of *takavi* loans which helped the raiyats to tide over the period of distress, there was a slight fall. In Purnea, although there was an increase in the total number of registrations, both perpetual leases and term leases decreased by 32 and 7·3 per cent. respectively, owing to the completion of the survey and settlement operations. In the Sonthal Parganas the increase of 21·6 per cent. in the total number of registrations is attributed to the dearness of food-grains and to the registration by the hill aboriginals of a large number of deeds of sale of *sabai* grass, which is utilised for the manufacture of paper.

Orissa. 217. The marked increase in the number of registrations and specially under the heads of sales, mortgages and bonds, which was exhibited in Orissa, was an effect of the prevalence of scarcity and the consequent dearness of food grains. In Cuttack registrations increased by 73·7 per cent., in Balasore by 45 per cent., in Puri by 57·8 per cent. and in Sambalpur by 21·6 per cent., as compared with 1907.

Chota Nagpur. 218. There was a remarkable rise in the number of registrations in all the districts of Chota Nagpur also. The increase of 34·4 per cent. in Singhbhum, 27·8 per cent. in Manbhum, 35·4 per cent. in Ranchi, 53·5 per cent. in Palamau, and 40·4 per cent. in Hazaribagh is ascribable to scarcity approximating to famine in most of the districts. In Hazaribagh and Manbhum, mortgages increased by 66·1 per cent. and 49·8 per cent. respectively, but in the former district there were 1,116 mortgages registered in favour of Government as security for loans granted in relief of distress, whereas in Manbhum, the mortgages were mostly usufructuary. In Palamau, sales and mortgages increased largely, the percentages being 94·5 per cent. and 128·7 per cent., respectively, on account of acute distress in the jurisdiction of the Hosainabad sub-registry office. In Ranchi there was an abnormal increase in term leases (41·4 per cent.), which have taken the place of leases and transfers under the influence of section 10 (*B*) of the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenancy Act. Perpetual leases also increased by 61 per cent., mainly in the town of Ranchi, where people from all parts of the country are purchasing building land, the value of which has increased greatly.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

219. The number of companies existing at the close of the year was 530 with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 47,44,60,459 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 23,05,52,551 against 512 companies with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 36,30,64,209 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 20,54,65,731 in the preceding year. There was thus an increase of 18 in the number of companies registered and of Rs. 2,50,86,820 in the paid-up capital. The number of companies limited by guarantee which worked during the year was 21, an increase of 6.

The number of new companies registered was 71, with a total nominal capital of Rs. 13,11,32,000 and paid up capital of Rs. 5,20,000. Registrations of new mining (coal) companies decreased from 48 in 1907-08 to 12, a fall which reflects the state of the share market consequent on the opening of a large number of collieries during the coal boom. Of the new companies four insurance companies and three navigation companies are, it is noteworthy, native enterprises. One insurance company, the Pan-Indian Insurance Company, Limited, was registered with a nominal capital of ten crores of rupees. One new brewery company was also registered. The total number of new companies limited by guarantee registered was seven against five in the preceding year. Of these, two are Native Provident societies.

One hundred and forty-seven companies increased their capital during the year, five their nominal capital, 135 their paid-up capital and the remaining seven both their nominal capital and their paid-up capital. No company reduced its capital during the year.

Eighteen companies went into liquidation, including one company which was finally dissolved, and 35 companies became defunct. Five companies which went into liquidation in previous years submitted their final reports during the year. One company limited by guarantee also became defunct during the year.

The provisions of section 69 of the Act were complied with everywhere, as far as could be ascertained, except by one native provident society, the Swadeshi Assurance and Wedding Company, Limited, in the district of Puri.

Working of Act XXI of 1860.

220. The following eight societies were registered under Act XXI of 1860 during the year:—

1. National Medical College of India.
2. Bihar National College.
3. The Devalaya.
4. The Refuge.
5. Ramkrishna Society Anath Bhandar.
6. The Calcutta Medical Club.
7. The Church Education League.
8. The Sibpur Ramkrishna Daridra Bhandar.

The fees realised during the year amounted to Rs. 26,658-15 against Rs. 32,658-2 in the previous year The decrease in fees was due to the fact that in 1907-1908 many coal companies with large nominal capital sought registration. The expenditure, Rs. 1,197-14-3, showed a small increase.

Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act.

221. Twenty-seven Brahmo marriages were registered compared with 41 in 1907. Twenty-three were registered in Calcutta, 1 in Burdwan, 2 in Giridih and 1 in Ranchi. Of the 19 Marriage Registrars under the Act and 24 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars, only 7 Marriage Registrars and 1 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrar registered marriages during the year. The age of bridegrooms ranged from about 18 to 34 years and those of brides from about 14 to 25 years. Two widows aged 15 and 17 years were re-married.

Working of Muhammadan Marriage Registration. Act.

222. As in the three preceding years, Act I (B.C.) of 1876 for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces was in force in 18 districts. The opening of a new office, as an experimental measure, at Kaliya in the district of Jessore brought up the total number of registration offices at the close of the year from 123 to 124. In 34 offices there was no work; for the remaining 90 offices the average number of registrations was 39·8 in 1908-1909 as compared with 39·9 in the previous year. There was a decrease of about 4 per cent. in the total number of ceremonies registered, the figures falling from 3,750 in 1907-1908 to 3,587 in the year under review. The decrease was marked in the districts of Midnapore, Howrah, the 24-Parganas, Jessore, Khulna and Monghyr.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) during the year 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds.]

Number. 223. The number of municipalities in the Province (excluding Calcutta) was 128, as in 1907-1908.

Elections. 224. General elections of Commissioners were held in 37 municipalities. The percentage of voters who troubled to record their votes varied greatly in different localities, and the reports of the proceedings in the Bankura and Bhagalpur Municipalities do not reflect creditably upon the methods adopted by some candidates. The proportion of uncontested elections was high, especially in the Tirhut Division.

Attendance at meetings. 225. The majority of the municipal bodies held a suitable number of meetings during the year, but the average attendance of Commissioners declined from 55·03 to 53·96. The Balasore, Sambalpur and Purulia Municipalities, with 8, 9 and 7 meetings only, respectively, appear to have given insufficient supervision to their affairs. Municipal administration in Balasore has been conspicuously mismanaged. A meeting at least once a month is ordinarily required, if the Commissioners are to keep in touch with the matters under their control.

Collections. 226. The percentage of total collections on the current demand rose from 95·78, the figure for the preceding year, to 97·5, the outstanding balance being 5·8 per cent. of the current demand against 6·1 per cent. during 1907-1908. There was a marked improvement in this respect in the Burdwan Division, in which the percentage of collections to current demand rose from 93·6 to 101·5, but the proportion in the Orissa Division (90·2 per cent.) continues to be poor, falling in the Balasore Municipality as low as 68 per cent. Of individual municipalities, 13 collected 100 per cent. or more of their current demand, the best results being obtained in South Barrackpore (108·5), Kushtia (108·3), Birnagar (106·8) and Howrah (105·1). Collections were unsatisfactorily small in Chapra (90·7), Arrah (90·6), Cuttack (88·7), Buxar (88·5), Cossipore-Chitpur (86·01), Monghyr (85·3) and Debhatta (81·2), while the Burdwan Municipality shows an outstanding balance of nearly one-third of its current demand. In Chapra difficulty was experienced in realizing the newly-introduced latrine tax. It is reported that at Arrah collections were not vigorously pushed, for fear of alienating the sympathies of the people from the drainage scheme, to which the rate-payers were making voluntary subscriptions. The failure to collect in Buxar was mainly due to the default of the East Indian Railway, and a similar neglect on the part of the Eastern Bengal State Railway affected the results in Cossipore-Chitpur. In Balasore there was serious mismanagement, and an absence of proper supervision over the collecting staff. Elsewhere the prevalence of scarcity and high prices prejudiced collections, but it is hoped that the ground thus lost will be made good by energetic action during the current year. The percentage of total remissions on current demand rose slightly from 2·68 to 2·88, the highest figure being that for the Bhagalpur Division (3·9). The total outstanding balance at the close of the year was Rs. 2,11,201 in comparison with Rs. 2,17,775 in 1907-1908.

Number of rate-payers. 227. The total number of rate-payers rose from 416,376 to 418,105, the bulk of the increase (1,245) being contributed by the newly-created municipality at Khagole.

Assessment and taxation. 228. The rate on holdings was in force in 54 municipalities, and in portions of seven others. In the remaining 67 the tax on persons was in force. Of the special rates, a latrine rate was levied in 96 towns, a water rate in 14, and a lighting rate in 4. The average incidence of municipal taxation per head of population for the whole Province was Re. 1-8-7, as compared with Re. 1-7-5 in 1907-1908. The incidence varied from Rs. 10-0-3 in Darjeeling to 4 annas 9 pies in Ramjibanpur. In 22 towns it was below eight annas.

229. Assessments were revised during the year, generally or partially, in 63 municipalities, and substantial increases of revenue were obtained in the following:— Revision of assessment.

Name of Municipality.	Increase of revenue.
	Rs.
Cossipore-Chitpur	54,475
Asansol	10,248
Baranagar	6,178
Titagarh	5,636
Bankura	3,704
Samastipur	3,119
Darbhanga	3,000

In Berhampore the paid Assessor appointed by Government under section 111A of the Municipal Act finished his work in February 1909, but delays in the disposal of appeals prevented the introduction of the new assessment. Since the municipality was on the verge of bankruptcy and has been obliged to appeal to Government for assistance, the Commissioners should not thus have neglected their own interests, the more so since the re-assessment was directed as an alternative to the supersession of the municipality, which the Commissioner had proposed. In Arrah the triennial assessment due in 1907-1908 has been postponed *sine die*, in order to minimise the opposition of the rate-payers to the new drainage scheme, and this fact distinctly detracts from the public spirit claimed to have been exhibited by the rate-payers in offering voluntary contributions to this project. In Sasaram the revision, which was due during the year, was postponed till 1909-1910 owing to the prevailing hard times.

230. The total receipts of the municipalities in the Province, including the opening balances, amounted to Rs. 73,73,133, against Rs. 67,96,298 in 1907-1908. The increase occurred chiefly under the following heads:— Income and expenditure.

	Rs.
Opening balance	2,71,928
Municipal rates and taxes	1,72,956
Grants and contributions	2,85,368

On the other hand, there was a decrease under "Loans from Government" (Rs. 2,56,500). The total disbursements amounted to Rs. 57,88,710, or an increase of Rs. 3,40,147 over the figures for the preceding year, mainly under the heads of "Water-supply," "Drainage" and "Conservancy."

231. The aggregate closing balances amounted to Rs. 15,84,423, as compared with Rs. 13,47,735 in the previous year. The retention of excessive balances was usually due to inability to spend during the year the loans or grants received from Government for particular purposes. The largest balance (Rs. 2,29,351) was to the credit of the Howrah Municipality. Closing balances.

INCOME.

232. The total revenue receipts of all municipalities, excluding the figures under "Extraordinary and Debt," amounted to Rs. 50,79,558, against Rs. 46,22,166 in 1907-1908. The increase was shared by all Divisions, except Chota Nagpur. The more important fluctuations under different heads are noticed briefly below. Total receipts.

233. The total revenue from the tax on houses and lands showed an increase of Rs. 91,594 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was most marked in Howrah (Rs. 45,559), Berhampore (Rs. 14,136), Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 8,795) and Kushtia (Rs. 4,732). In Berhampore, where a rate on holdings was introduced in place of a tax on persons, the re-assessments of the combined tax showed a decrease of Rs. 1,098, but the assessments made by the local Committees having been found to be inequitable, an order was passed under section 111A of the Act for the appointment of an Assessor to revise the rates of taxation. As already stated, the Municipal Commissioners, by their own action, delayed the enforcement of the revised assessment. Tax on houses and lands.

234. The net income from tolls on roads and ferries declined by Rs. 3,526. The ferry rent payable to the Patna Municipality fell from Tolls on roads and ferries.

Rs. 19,366 to Rs. 11,774, in consequence of the institution of a steamer service by the Bengal and North-Western Railway. Tolls on roads were levied only in Sambalpur.

Water rate.

235. A water-rate was in force in 14 municipalities, as compared with 13 in the two previous years, the tax being levied for the first time in Tollyganj. The total receipts showed an increase of Rs. 41,240, the most noticeable improvement being in Howrah (Rs. 35,144) and Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 3,598).

Lighting rate.

236. A lighting rate was levied in four municipalities only, and the realisations during the year exhibited an increase of Rs. 40,779. This occurred mainly in Cossipore-Chitpur, and was due to the extension of the rate to the whole municipality, accompanied by a general revision of the assessment.

Conservancy, including scavenging, and latrine rate.

237. The income from conservancy and the latrine rate showed a small increase of Rs. 19,701, principally in the Presidency Division (Rs. 13,685). In reviewing the reports of the two last years, attention was drawn to the desirability of turning trenching grounds and the disposal of refuse and sweepings into a source of income, and apparently more attempts in this direction are now being made. It is only from the Burdwan Division that the existence of popular prejudice is reported to have rendered any such action impossible.

Tax on professions and trades, and the tax on persons according to their circumstances and property.

238. The tax on professions and trades and the tax on persons yielded Rs. 62,470 and Rs. 3,55,309, respectively, against Rs. 59,823 and Rs. 3,78,072 in the preceding year. Out of the decline of Rs. 22,763 under the latter head, the Berhampore Municipality was responsible for Rs. 15,234, as a result of the substitution of a tax on holdings for the tax on persons. In Arrah the collections under this and under other heads exhibited a decrease, the sacrifice being due to the fear of losing subscriptions to the new drainage scheme.

Grants from Provincial and Local Funds, and contributions from individuals.

239. The net increase of income from grants and contributions amounted to Rs. 2,85,368. Government made large grants during the year to Monghyr (Rs. 78,203 for water-works), Patna (Rs. 50,000 for a flushing scheme and Rs. 10,000 for the reconstruction of a Dom shed) and to Arrah (Rs. 25,000 for a drainage scheme), while it contributed Rs. 60,000 to the water-works schemes of the municipalities of the Burdwan Division and Rs. 12,000 to the Howrah drainage scheme. The Maharaja of Darbhanga gave Rs. 50,000 towards the Patna flushing scheme, while Howrah received Rs. 18,603 from the local mills for drainage works. A liberal gift of Rs. 50,000, together with a building valued at Rs. 11,000, was made by Babu Dino Nath Das of Kanchanagore to the Burdwan Municipality for the maintenance of a charitable dispensary and a free Middle English School.

EXPENDITURE.

Office and collection establishment.

240. The expenditure on office and collection establishment fell from 8·9 per cent. on the total ordinary expenditure to 8·0 per cent. This result is mainly due to the abolition of audit and banking fees. In many cases, however, the cost of establishments would still appear to be needlessly heavy. The highest percentage is reported from Chakdaha in the Presidency Division (27·9), and the Commissioner observes that it is difficult to keep the proportion in municipalities with limited incomes at a low figure. But it is significant that the administration of the municipality with the highest percentage in the Chota Nagpur Division (Lohardaga, 22·5) is emphatically condemned by the District Magistrate.

Prevention of fire.

241. The expenditure on prevention of fire increased by Rs. 5,869, and was mainly incurred in the suburban municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 15,362), Howrah (Rs. 11,988), Garden Reach (Rs. 2,528) and Maniktola (Rs. 1,516) and in Darjeeling (Rs. 1,489).

Lighting.

242. The cost of lighting rose by Rs. 19,222, and the increase was shared by all Divisions, being especially noticeable in the case of Bhagalpur, where the expenditure rose by more than 50 per cent. In many cases, however, no satisfactory progress was made.

Water-supply.

243. There was an increase of expenditure on water-supply both under "Capital outlay" and under "Establishment, repairs, etc.," which amounted in all to Rs. 94,233. The Bhagalpur Municipality, where important improvements were carried out in the water-works, showed the largest increase under

"Capital outlay" (Rs. 36,620). The Sanitary Board reports that the water-works throughout the Province generally were kept in a fair state of efficiency during the year, but the Water-works Fund at Berhampore is practically bankrupt, and an application has been submitted to Government for assistance. Howrah continued to lead the way as regards the cost of delivery (1·5 annas per 1,000 gallons), and Burdwan (1·9 annas) was not far behind. A number of new schemes were in various stages of preparation. In Monghyr the contracts for a system of water-supply were given out. At Puri and Gaya some experimental work was done, which in neither case was entirely successful. Work was proceeding to secure additions to the supply in Darjeeling and Kurseong, and schemes were under preparation for new installations or for the improvement of supplies at Hooghly-Chinsura, Serampore, Jessore, Khulna, Naihati and Murshidabad. In Muzaffarpur, and to a less extent in Darbhanga, well-boring experiments were carried out with some degree of success.

Drainage.

244. There was an increase of expenditure on drainage both under capital and maintenance charges, which, as regards capital expenditure, was principally in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. Schemes were under preparation for Hooghly-Chinsura and Hazaribagh, while the Bagjolla project, if completed, will benefit various adjacent municipalities. Drainage projects for Bhatpara, Kishenganj, Daltonganj and Burdwan were sanctioned by Government during the year. The undertaking of the Serampore scheme was delayed owing to the apprehension that the discharge might affect the purity of the water at the intake of the Howrah pumping station. At Puri work was in progress. A drainage scheme for Berhampore was completed, but, owing to the unsatisfactory financial position of the municipality, there is little hope of giving effect to it immediately.

Conservancy, including road-cleaning, road-watering and latrines.

245. The expenditure on conservancy shows an increase of Rs. 63,537 over that of the preceding year. Particular activity in this department was displayed by the municipalities of the Presidency Division, but the information supplied deals mainly with the statistics of money expended, and fails to emphasize the cases, if any, in which the existing arrangements were noticeably defective.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

246. There was an increase of expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries, particularly in the Patna Division, where the municipalities incurred out of their own funds an expenditure of Rs. 84,948, as against Rs. 19,189 in the preceding year.

Plague charges.

247. As a result of the marked diminution in the prevalence of plague in the Patna and Tirhut Divisions, the expenditure upon preventive measures fell by 43 per cent. As in previous years a large proportion of the expenditure was covered by Government grants.

Public works

248. There was a decrease in expenditure on public works during the year of Rs. 10,643. An examination of the figures for individual municipalities shows that in many cases there were excessive fluctuations in the expenditure on roads from year to year. For example, in Chaibassa a sum of Rs. 104 only was spent during 1908-1909 as compared with Rs. 1,982 in the previous year, and the District Officer observes that there was no proper plan under which road work was undertaken. It is in the interests of the municipalities themselves to maintain their public works in an efficient state, and this can only be done if work is executed systematically and according to some regular scheme. The neglect of the roads in Berhampore, Patna and Balasore is particularly commented upon by the respective Commissioners.

Public instruction.

249. There was a small increase in expenditure on public instruction but three Divisions, Burdwan, Patna and Bhagalpur, still fell below the prescribed standard of expenditure upon primary education, namely, 3·2 per cent. on ordinary income. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division explains that failure to spend up to the required standard was ordinarily due to special local reasons which were accepted by the educational authorities.

Loans.

250. Thirty-seven municipalities were in debt at the close of the year, and their total net indebtedness, after deducting the balance of the Sinking Fund investments, amounted to Rs. 38,89,909 against Rs. 38,96,848 in 1907-1908. The largest outstanding liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 20,66,472), Darjeeling (Rs. 5,86,008), Bhagalpur (Rs. 3,20,390) and Patna (Rs. 2,43,137). Four municipalities received loans during the year, namely, Howrah (Rs. 40,000

for the south foreshore drainage scheme), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 25,000 for the improvement of roads), Bhagalpur (Rs. 22,000 for an office building) and Darjeeling (Rs. 70,000 for increasing the electric current supply and reconstructing the old municipal buildings).

Liabilities.

251. On the 31st March 1909, 86 municipalities had outstanding liabilities on account of unpaid bills and unfinished works, amounting to Rs. 2,11,362, which represents 6·4 per cent. of their total current demand. The liabilities exceeded the closing balances in 16 municipalities. The excess was most marked in the case of Berhampore, in which the liabilities amounted to Rs. 25,029, while the actual closing balance was Rs. 1,926 only. The major portion of these liabilities was on account of the water-works, with regard to which outstanding bills to the amount of Rs. 15,000 remained unpaid at the close of the year. The question of restoring the financial equilibrium of the municipality is under consideration.

The financial position of the municipalities of Gaya, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Ranchi, which worked at a deficit, demands the attention of the Divisional Commissioners. The incomes of these municipalities were swollen in previous years by the receipt of grants for special purposes, and steps should now be taken to adjust expenditure to normal conditions.

Audit of accounts and embezzlements.

252. A heavy defalcation, amounting approximately to Rs. 12,000, by the tax-daroga and other collecting officers of the Balasore Municipality was brought to light during the year. In Patna, a dafadar who embezzled Rs. 426 was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment, and the amount is being recouped by deduction from the pay of the tax-daroga and the checking muharrir.

Inspection.

253. The information supplied concerning the inspection of municipalities by Commissioners and District Officers continues to be incomplete, and in the report from the Presidency Division the subject is not mentioned at all. The municipalities of the Midnapore district, except Midnapore itself, and those of Baidyabati, Jamalpur, Dumraon, Jagdispur, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Puri in particular, appear to have been neglected in this respect. It is only by personal inspection that a District Officer can satisfy himself that the work of a municipality is being efficiently conducted.

General.

254. The remarks of Commissioners upon the general working of the municipalities in their Divisions do not ordinarily disclose any very serious defects. In the Burdwan Division attention is drawn to the apathy of the Suri Municipality in tackling the efficient drainage of the town, and to the difficulties caused by party feeling in the municipalities of the Bankura district in particular, and in Bansberia. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division is of opinion that the municipalities near Calcutta, and those which are connected with mills, have made great progress in recent years. The mufassal municipalities on the other hand suffered from the decay of local trade, the deterioration of the water-supply and the emigration of the wealthier residents to Calcutta. Nevertheless, the Commissioners as a rule made the best of their resources, and there was a commendable absence of friction. In the Bhagalpur Division, the appointment of the Subdivisional Officer of Rajmahal as Chairman effected some improvement in the administration of the Sahebganj Municipality. In the Patna Division stress is laid upon the financial difficulties of nearly all the municipalities, in view of which the Commissioner considers that the standard of administration was perhaps more satisfactory than might have been anticipated. The Commissioner of the Tirhut Division characterises the work done as creditable, though hampered by lack of funds. In the Orissa Division, the raising of funds to improve the water-supply of Puri was perhaps the most important pending question, but hitherto the Hindu community has not responded as liberally as might have been hoped considering the sanctity of the locality and the interests of the numerous pilgrims involved. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpur remarks that in that Division generally municipal administration is still in a very elementary stage, and in the smaller municipalities, other than district head-quarters, it is no easy matter to instil life and vigour into the proceedings of the Commissioners. The affairs of two municipalities only in the Province were seriously mismanaged. The Berhampore Municipality was allowed to fall into a very bad position financially, from which it will not be easy to extricate it, and the action of

the Commissioners hitherto has been rather in the direction of opposing all efforts by Government to effect an improvement; while at the same time requests are made for assistance from general revenues. In Balasore, the serious irregularities which resulted in the embezzlement of Rs. 12,000 and an absolute want of supervision over all branches of the work must be directly attributed to the neglect of duty on the part both of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, and the District Magistrate has now been requested to assume the office of Chairman in the hope of restoring some degree of order and control. The history of the year as a whole was uneventful; but if no striking advance is to be chronicled, there was equally (with one or two exceptions) no conspicuous failure, and progress was maintained.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

[The Report on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta for 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part VII.—Local Funds.]

255. The third triennium during which work was carried on under the provisions of Act III (B.C.) of 1899 ends with the year 1908-1909, and it is of interest to take stock of the progress made in the period as well as to record the results achieved in the last year of it. Progress of the triennium.

The earlier years of the working of the new Corporation were characterised by an extensive overhauling and reorganisation of all the important departments under it, but that process now seems, for the time being, to have been practically accomplished. During the last three years the procedure of the Suit Department was revised, and the policy of decentralization was forwarded by the transfer of the control of the Water districts and the Building Department to District Engineers, and it is claimed that this policy has resulted in greater efficiency, and, in respect of the control of the water-supply, has rendered possible some saving of expenditure. The improvements of the administrative machinery effected since 1905-1906 have consisted mainly in the issue of new and amended bye-laws regulating many points, amongst which the most important were the preparation of electoral rolls, the rules of business at meetings, the qualifications required of officers of the Engineering and Health Departments, the management of squares, shops, and theatres, the inspection of water fittings and the work of plumbers. Important rules governing building operations, the connection of private drains, and the management of markets and slaughter-houses at present form the subject of discussion between Government and the Corporation. The compilation of a consolidated hand-book dealing with all such regulations has been undertaken.

256. The results of the third general election held under the Act of 1899 were disappointing. In spite of the amendment of the rules in order to facilitate the recording of voters (whose number, in comparison with the figures at the time of the previous election in 1906, rose from 9,958, having 20,572 votes to 28,202 exercising 70,201 votes), only 11 per cent. of the electorate actually recorded their votes, and in only 8 out of 25 wards were the elections contested. In these wards the percentage of votes recorded to the total list fell from 62 in 1906 to 45. General election.

257. Under the revenue account, the opening balance of the Corporation, which was Rs. 8,58,456 on the 1st April 1906, had been reduced to a closing balance of Rs. 5,89,917 on the 31st March 1909, and the progress of receipts and payments during the triennium recently ended and that preceding it is exhibited below, all non-recurring items having been excluded:— Receipts and expenditure.

Year.	In thousands of Rupees. Receipts.	Payments.
	Rs.	Rs.
1903-1904	61,51	64,62
1904-1905	64,33	63,56
1905-1906	67,78	65,62
Annual average	64,54	64,56
1906-1907	70,69	70,65
1907-1908	73,66	73,25
1908-1909	75,82	73,97
Annual average	73,39	72,62

Comparing the results of the year under review with those of 1905-1906, the recurring receipts of the Corporation have increased by Rs. 8,04,000 or 11·8 per cent., and the recurring expenditure by Rs. 8,35,000 or 12·7 per cent., but there is still a satisfactory margin of receipts over payments. On the figures for the ten years ending 1908-1909, it is stated that the average annual rate of increase under the main items of recurring income and expenditure was Rs. 2,65,000 and Rs. 2,61,000, respectively, indicating a regular expansion on a practically equal scale. For the recurring additions to its revenue the Corporation has to look mainly to the general rate, receipts from licenses and the sale of water, and the average annual rate of increase under these heads during the last three years was (in thousands of rupees) Rs. 1,98, Rs. 30, and Rs. 29 respectively. Ordinarily, too, the income from markets shows a steady rise, although this was checked during the year under report pending the execution of improvements. On the expenditure side, the following heads have shown a steady rise each year, namely, loan charges, expenses of pumping (mainly due to rise in the price of coal) and working of the *gaukhanas* (mainly due to increase in the cost of fodder). The heavy additions to establishment charges (*plus* one lakh and *plus* Rs. 60,000 respectively), which formed a feature of the reports for the first two years of the triennium, received a check during 1908-1909 when a net decrease of Rs. 1,493 was shown. A committee which examined the question in 1907-1908, recommended reductions to the total of Rs. 41,000 per annum, but full effect has not yet been given to their proposals. A serious item in the non-recurring expenditure incurred is that on account of grain compensation allowance, which appeared in the accounts for the first time in 1906-1907 and which was responsible for an outlay of Rs. 2,12,890 in 1908-1909. On the whole, however, the financial results of the year's working were satisfactory.

Loans.

258. During the three years ending with 1908-1909, a total sum of Rs. 59,00,000 was borrowed by the Corporation, as compared with the sum of Rs. 90 lakhs during the preceding triennium, and on the 31st March 1909 the total loan liability amounted to Rs. 4,26,02,500, in comparison with Rs. 3,86,47,890 on the 31st March 1906. The net indebtedness of the Corporation (viz., the sum owed less the sums to credit in sinking funds and reserve) has increased by about Rs. 26 lakhs during the same period, as against an increase of Rs. 60 lakhs during the previous three years. The average price at which the loans of 1908-1909 were floated (Rs. 95-11) was the lowest experienced during the past three years. The process of heavy borrowing which was characteristic of the three years ending with 1905-1906 slackened, therefore, perceptibly, and the Government consolidated loan, which necessitated an annual payment of Rs. 4,64,000, was finally paid off during the year under report.

	Rs.
1906-1907 ...	12,81,400
1907-1908 ...	25,18,600
1908-1909 ...	20,00,000
Total ...	59,00,000

Collection and Licenses.

259. The work of the Collection and License Departments of the Corporation has been commended during the year under review, and the percentage of collections achieved, which in the former was 96·3, as in 1907-1908, and in the latter 98·4 in the case of the tax on trades and professions, and 98·6 in the case of the tax on carriages and horses, as compared with 98 and 9·79, respectively, in 1907-1908, was highly creditable to all concerned.

Works.

260. It is, however, in respect of the works actually carried out by it in the town that the administration of the Corporation is of greatest interest to the outside public, and the directions in which the largest outlay is incurred are those of *bustee* improvement, water-supply, drainage, roads and street lighting. The progress made in each of these respects is referred to briefly below.

Bustee improvement.

261. Action towards the systematic improvement of *bustees* was first taken in 1903-1904, since when $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles of roads have been opened out, of which 5 miles have been sewered, and 251 bighas of *bustee* have been removed. The total expenditure up to the close of 1908-1909 was Rs. 2,34,000. The rate of progress was well maintained during the year under review.

Water-supply.

262. The scheme for the increase of the filtered water-supply, which was sanctioned in March 1908 and which is described in the Administration Report for 1907-1908, was embarked upon during the year. To give effect to the whole scheme it will be necessary to enlarge the work at Palta (other than the

settling area), to strengthen the pumping plant at Tallah, to construct an elevated reservoir of considerable dimensions, and to lay a huge steel main from Tallah to Wellington Square. Up to the close of 1908-1909, three filters had been constructed out of five which will be required, the pumping plant was in course of delivery, and the site of the reservoir had been acquired and cleared, and the foundations commenced. The first bolt of the actual structure was laid by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 18th November 1909.

The construction of the elevated reservoir will render possible the maintenance of a pressure of 40 feet throughout the 24 hours within the area of previous intermittent supply. All other arrangements of this change, which had been completed within the town proper by the 31st March 1907, were completed within the added area also by the 31st March 1909 in so far as concerned the laying of trunk mains and the improvement of the pumping machinery, but the substitution of supply by gravitation and the check of waste are essential if the full pressure is to be given. The population to whom the constant supply is now available is estimated at 847,430, and the average daily consumption of water during the year was 26,149,000 gallons, which is equal to a supply of 30·8 gallons per head. In respect of the unfiltered supply, continuous action was taken to improve the pumping machinery at Mullick's Ghât, with the result that a higher pressure is now securred.

Drainage.

263. In connection with the scheme for the drainage of the suburban area, the only portion of importance remaining to be done, namely, the construction of the syphon under Tolly's Nullah, without which it was impossible to utilise fully the sewers in Alipore and Kidderpore, was, after lengthy discussions and negotiations, actually commenced in October 1908 and completed in May 1909, the cost being estimated at Rs. 2,24,805. All that now remains is to link up the system of sewers on both banks with the syphon.

As regards other projects the drainage of Baliaghata has been completed. A useful diversion of the drainage from the Maidan into Tolly's Nullah was finished during the year, and a scheme for discharging the drainage of Garden Reach into the Hooghly was commenced. But the most important drainage work in progress was that for the construction of sewers in the Fringe Area and for the general improvement of the locality at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,51,709. Work was commenced in November 1908, and good progress is reported in the building of the sewers.

Roads and street lighting.

264. It is reported that, including repairs to foot-paths and other incidental charges, the total annual cost of keeping the roads in Calcutta in a really efficient state is Rs. 6,60,000. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 4,31,635 and that of the last three years only averaged Rs. 4,47,634 per annum.

	Rs.
* 1906-1907	... 75,852
1907-1908	... 48,767
1908-1909	... 23,852
† 1906-1907	... *80,728
1907-1908	... 60,861
1908-1909	... 66,572

The yearly* expenditure on the flagging of foot-paths shews a tendency to decline, though that† on the work of kerbing and channelling is more constant. The number of incandescent gas lamps rose to 9,600 in 1908-1909, but the most important work of the Corporation in this connection was the consideration of the revised agreement to be entered into with the Oriental Gas Company on the expiry of the present contract in 1911. After protracted discussions and negotiations the approval of Government to a new agreement was given in November 1909.

Conservancy.

265. A continuous conservancy service is now maintained in the central wards, and a double service elsewhere, this improvement having been rendered possible by additions effected to the equipment of the different *gaukhanas*, and by the thorough revision during the year of the arrangements in District IV on lines similar to those which had been previously adopted in the other three districts of the town. The construction of a new refuse platform in Lower Circular Road at a cost of Rs. 1,59,396 was a noticeable improvement, but on the other hand the failure of the Entally incinerator to work satisfactorily necessitated its closure.

Miscellaneous improvements.

266. Among the more important miscellaneous improvements of the year were the extension and improvement of public cemeteries noticeably at Bagmari and Tiljalla; the payment of a contribution of Rs. 27,000 after some discussion towards the Parsi Tower of Silence; the decision to remove the

dhobikhana from Circular Road, and the construction of a slaughter-house for Hindu use in Chitpore Road. Action continued to be taken towards the improvement of public parks and squares. The largest project, however, which was in progress during the year, was the extension of the Sir Stuart Hogg Market at an estimated cost of Rs. 11,53,388.

Health.

267. The vital statistics of the year 1908 show a birth-rate of 20·1 per mille and a death-rate of 32·6 per mille (calculated on the census population of 1901), in comparison with 17·6 and 35·6, respectively, in the preceding five years. The improvement in the registration of births may presumably be attributed in part to the system of employing peripatetic registrars which was extended throughout the town in 1906. As regards mortality, the past three years consisted of one year which was fairly normal, one which was specially unhealthy, and one which showed a death-rate appreciably lower than usual. Small-pox prevailed extensively in 1906, to a less extent in 1907, and very moderately in 1908, but in December 1908 a sudden rise in the mortality occurred, and in the three months January—March 1909 no fewer than 2,789 deaths occurred. The accommodation available at the Campbell Hospital (which has since been greatly improved) was found to be inadequate, and a temporary hospital was erected at Tiljalla, the epidemic finally disappearing in 1909. Vaccination, the popularity of which varies directly with the incidence of the disease, was energetically pushed, and the average yearly number of primary vaccinations rose from 18,176 during 1903—1905 to 24,601 during the subsequent triennium. Proposals to amend the Vaccination Act in Calcutta and the suburban municipalities are at present, at the instance of the Corporation, under the consideration of Government. In respect of outbreaks of cholera the year was a most unfortunate one. The deaths from the cause, which rose from 2,504 in 1906 to 3,803 in 1907 (the highest rate recorded for 20 years), were only slightly less (3,694) in 1908. The historical *resumé* by the Health Officer tracing such outbreaks since 1891 to various festivals which attracted numerous pilgrims to the town, is of much interest. The drinking of river water on these occasions is doubtless responsible for such outbreaks, and that of 1908 followed directly on the *Ardhodaya Jog* and in spite of the expenditure of over Rs. 25,000 on sanitary precautions on that occasion. The mortality in 1908 from plague, which had been 3,591 and 2,606 in the two preceding years, and averaged 6,761 a year in the triennium terminating with 1905, fell to 1,779, and the death-rate was the lowest recorded since 1899. Considerable discussion took place regarding the proposal to amalgamate the Health and Plague Departments, but the question was not settled. The mortality from malaria again showed a decline, being only 1,533, and as usual the comparative statistics for the town, suburbs and fringe area point clearly to the value of drainage as a preventive measure. The mortality from phthisis has not varied greatly for the last four years. After the close of the year 1908-1909 the Corporation made a substantial addition to its contributions to the different medical institutions in the town.

The Puri Lodging-house Act.

(The Report on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act during the year 1908-1909.)

Extent of application.

268. The town of Danton, in the district of Midnapore, was withdrawn from the operation of the Lodging-house Act with effect from 1st November 1908. Otherwise the Act continued in force in the same towns and areas as in 1907-1908. The law was amended during the year by Act III of 1908, with the object of preventing overcrowding in lodging-houses and of improving their sanitary condition.

Number of licensed lodging-houses.

269. There was an increase both in the total number of licensed lodging-houses and in the number of lodgers for whom accommodation was provided, the figures rising from 1,746 and 66,818 to 2,492 and 107,569, respectively, as compared with the previous year. The increase in the district of Puri, however, from 717 houses to 1,118, was only apparent. The usual licenses were issued on the 1st April 1908 for one year, but as the Lodging-house Act was subsequently amended, the licenses already given were treated as having expired at the end of the calendar year, and new licenses were issued

from the 1st January 1909. In Gaya, the number of lodging-houses shows an increase from 474 in 1907-1908 to 871 in 1908-1909, accommodation being provided for 51,388 pilgrims against 26,156 in the preceding year, but in fact there was a small decrease, since in order to make the Lodging-house Act year coincide with the calendar year two licenses for each house were issued during 1908-1909—one for one year, and one for the four months from September to December. There was a large falling off both in the number of lodging-houses and of lodgers at Naihati, which is accounted for by the fact that there was an extraordinary gathering there in the preceding year on the occasion of the *Ardhodaya Jog*. The two great festivals at Puri (viz., the *Rāth Jatra* and the *Dol Jatra*) were attended by 32,244 and 36,167 pilgrims, respectively.

Offences under the Act.

270. Three hundred and forty criminal cases under the Act were disposed of during the year in comparison with 408 in the previous year. The number of convictions was 317 against 383, and the total amount of fines imposed and realized was Rs. 6,594 against Rs. 5,934 in 1907-1908. The maximum fine has, under the new Act, been increased from one rupee to five rupees per person illegally lodged.

Income and expenditure.

271. The total income of the funds (excluding the opening balance of Rs. 59,925) was Rs. 1,02,978 as compared with Rs. 83,009 in the preceding year. The increase was most marked in Puri and Gaya. In both places it was due to the issue of new licenses in accordance with the amended Act, and in the former also to the settlement of roadside lands by auction at higher rates.

The total expenditure incurred fell from Rs. 90,768 in 1907-1908 to Rs. 86,162 in 1908-1909. The decrease was largest in Gaya, Naihati and Nadia. In Gaya alone it was over Rs. 10,000, but in the previous year a large contribution was made to the Gaya water-works scheme. In Naihati, as already stated, fewer lodgers had to be provided for. The fluctuation in Nadia has not been explained.

Health and general.

272. No case of plague occurred among the pilgrims during the year, but cholera was prevalent in Gaya and Puri, though in a less virulent form than in the previous year, the number of deaths from this cause being 36 and 102, respectively, against 93 and 256 in 1907-1908. The total mortality amongst the pilgrims was 404, as compared with 636 in the previous year. In Puri alone the total number of deaths was 372, to which cholera and dysentery together contributed more than half. The sanitary arrangements of the lodging-houses were reported to be satisfactory on the whole, while the water-supply was good and adequate.

District Boards.

[The Reports from Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the District Boards in Bengal during the year 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Number of District and Local Boards.

273. There was no change in the number of District and Local Boards in existence during the year. One new union committee was established at Daulatpur, in the district of Khulna.

Meetings of District Boards.

274. The District Boards of the Province held in all 425 meetings, out of which 18 were adjourned, or proved abortive, for want of a quorum, as against 20 in 1907-1908. All the Boards met at least once a month, with the exception of those of Champaran, Sambalpur and Palamau. The two latter were similarly noticed last year. A meeting at monthly intervals is a reasonable minimum requirement, if effective control is to be maintained over the operations of the Board.

Meetings of Local Boards, and attendance of members.

275. Eight hundred and seventy-two meetings were held by Local Boards in the course of the year. No fewer than 100 of these were adjourned, or failed, for want of a quorum, and although the proportion is slightly less than in the preceding year, it is still excessive. Three Boards, those of Dhanbaid and the Northern and Southern Zamindaris, Sambalpur, held only two meetings each, and out of 78 Local Boards, 32 failed to meet at least once a month. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the grant of travelling allowance, which has now been sanctioned, will make it possible for outlying members to attend at meetings more regularly and frequently, but it is remarked in more than one

report that the volume of the business transacted by Local Boards is not sufficient to require numerous meetings.

Elections. 276. General elections were held in the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore, Nadia and Patna. Except in Nadia, thay were generally a failure, and vacancies were left which had to be filled by nomination. It is noticeable that the District Magistrate of Patna reports a growing disinclination on the part of the more influential land-holders to stand as candidates.

Union committees. 277. The aggregate income, excluding the opening balance of the 51 union committees, amounted to Rs. 17,180 against Rs. 16,913 in the previous year, and the total expenditure rose from Rs. 16,052 to Rs. 16,524. Outside the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions these committees are practically non-existent. The whole question of village government was discussed by the Royal Commission on Decentralization, and action has yet to be taken upon their report. For the present, the problem of establishing an active unit of village administration below the Local Board has still to be solved. It is reported from Nadia that the practice of carrying out repairs to roads by advances to presidents of panchayats and village headmen did not answer satisfactorily, as there was delay in getting in the accounts.

Financial results. 278. The year opened with a gross credit balance of Rs. 28,51,245, and the total receipts of District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 78,76,020. The total amount available for expenditure was thus Rs. 1,07,27,265, of which Rs. 85,45,417 was spent during the year, leaving a credit balance of Rs. 21,81,848.

The table below compares the income and expenditure of District Boards under the main heads of account during the past two years :—

INCOME.

	1907-1908.	1908-1909.
	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Rates	34,06,194	34,88,414
Interest	33,925	36,645
Police (Pounds)	3,43,487	3,30,309
Education	47,709	57,900
Medical	92,123	65,912
Scientific and other Departments ...	20,381	18,302
Miscellaneous	1,48,538	1,05,874
Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation	5,609	7,371
Civil Works (including Ferries) ...	15,55,948	11,98,685
Contributions	6,86,132	9,95,880
Loans	7,96,698	4,54,000
Deposits and Advances	8,02,118	11,16,728
Total ...	79,38,862	78,76,020

EXPENDITURE.

Administration	2,13,336	2,02,807
Police (Pounds)	30,673	26,799
Education	11,70,390	12,84,770
Medical	4,06,096	4,29,397
Scientific and other Minor Departments	62,484	66,785
Superannuation Allowance and Pension	42,719	52,117
Stationery and Printing	44,009	41,216
Miscellaneous	29,943	53,697
Famine Relief	86,626	96,543
Minor Works and Navigation ...	3,75,621	3,50,617
Civil Works	45,69,276	43,83,396
Contributions	19,578	35,456
Interest on Debt	5,189	12,408
Debt	8,73,181	15,09,409
Total ...	79,29,121	85,45,417

INCOME.

279. There was an increase of revenue from Provincial rates amounting to Rs. 82,220, but in three Divisions, namely, Tirhut, Bhagalpur and Orissa, the income declined by Rs. 32,898, Rs. 23,741 and Rs. 4,770, respectively. The main reason alleged was the prevalence of scarcity. The largest increase (Rs. 92,134) occurred in the Burdwan Division, where it was due to the larger collections (Rs. 59,494) of cess on mines in the district of Burdwan, to better collection of arrears in Hooghly and Howrah, and to re-valuation operations in Birbhum and Midnapore. Provincial rates.

280. The total number of pounds maintained by the District Boards was 2,811 as against 2,773 in the preceding year, and the revenue derived from them rose in 13 districts and fell in the remainder, resulting in a total decrease of Rs. 13,178. The Tirhut Division is responsible for the largest decline (Rs. 8,889). The fall is attributable to the failure of crops, as a result of which fewer cattle were impounded and farmers were unwilling to take settlement at the former rents. It is noted that the district of Midnapore has introduced a system of triennial settlements, and this may possibly help to secure more reliable lessees, who will take greater interest in the efficient management of their pounds. Pounds.

281. The total income under 'Civil Works' declined by Rs. 3,57,263, owing mainly to the fact that the grant for the augmentation of the resources of District Boards, which in the previous year was included under this head, was mostly shown under "Contributions from Provincial to Local." Civil Works.

282. The receipts from ferries rose in 16 districts and fell in 12, resulting in a net increase of Rs. 1,039. The large decrease in Darbhanga (Rs. 25,041) was due partly to remissions of rent on account of the prevailing scarcity, and partly to the fact that in the preceding year the ferries had been settled for three years and security deposits realised for the whole period. Ferries.

283. Loans to local bodies from Government amounted to Rs. 4,54,000 in all. Of this, Rs. 3,50,000 represented the second instalment of the loan for the Magrahât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas, while loans of Rs. 54,000 and Rs. 50,000 were taken by the District Boards of Murshidabad and Darbhanga for the construction of railway feeder roads and screw-pile bridges, respectively. Loans.

284. The fluctuations in contributions under "Education" and "Medical" resulted in an increase of Rs. 10,191 under the former head, and a decrease of Rs. 26,211 under the latter. The figures under the remaining heads call for no special remarks. Other sources of income.

EXPENDITURE.

285. The aggregate expenditure on administration fell by Rs. 10,529, owing chiefly to the discontinuance of the banking and audit fees previously charged by Government. Office establishment and contingencies showed increases of Rs. 2,105 and Rs. 602, respectively, due to the normal expansion of work. Administration.

286. The aggregate expenditure on education exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 1,14,380. The increase, however, was largely nominal, and was attributable to the fact that some District Boards were obliged to refund the unspent balances of the Government grant for the construction of primary schools, having failed to raise locally one-third of the cost of construction. Some progress was, nevertheless, effected. The number of aided upper primary schools rose from 2,255 to 2,368, and the aided upper and lower primary schools together furnished instruction to 677,302 boys and 82,335 girls, as compared with 657,531 boys and 77,902 girls in 1907-08. In all districts, except Hooghly, the expenditure on education was much in excess of the amount assigned for this purpose from provincial revenues. In Midnapore the actual expenditure was nearly one-and-a-half times the assigned amount, and in Darbhanga it was nearly double. Education.

287. Technical or industrial schools continued to be maintained or aided by eleven District Boards, namely, those of Burdwan, Midnapore, Khulna, Shahabad, Saran, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Balasore, Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Manbhum. It cannot be said that the record of progress was very Special schools.

encouraging in any instance. Reference is particularly made in various reports to the introduction of fly-shuttle looms, but the degree of success achieved has varied greatly, and at the present stage District Boards would probably do better by assisting pupils to attend the Serampore Weaving School than by attempting desultory local experiments under inadequate supervision. It is hoped that, as the result of the appointment of an Inspector of Technical and Industrial Schools, it will be possible to systematize and improve the methods of instruction now followed.

Shows and exhibitions.

288. Agricultural shows or exhibitions were held during the year at Chinsura (Hooghly), Bankura, Suri (Birbhum), Khulna, Bankipore and Bhita (Patna), Barahpur (Shahabad), Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi, and Purulia (Manbhum), to which the District Boards concerned gave financial assistance. At Chinsura (Hooghly), Bankura, Khulna and Bankipore (Patna) industrial exhibits were also shown.

Medical.

289. The expenditure under this head increased by Rs. 23,301 in comparison with the preceding year. The total number of dispensaries maintained by the Boards rose from 139 to 158, but the number aided by them fell from 147 to 142. Eight new dispensaries were opened by the Gaya District Board, and one each by those of Birbhum, Hooghly, Howrah, Shahabad, Palamau and Manbhum. The management of the Arrah Hospital was taken over by the District Board from the Municipality. In Burdwan five temporary dispensaries were maintained from September to January in tracts affected by malaria. The District Boards of Murshidabad, Sambalpur and Hazaribagh maintained no dispensaries, but, as in the previous year, they continued to subsidise such institutions. The experiment of a floating dispensary in the Sundarbans tract of the 24-Parganas was finally abandoned as a failure. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division reports that the people did not appreciate the advantages of the practice of deputing doctors to attend rural markets for the distribution of medicines. This system is, however, proving successful elsewhere, notably in the districts of Hooghly and Purnea, and it would seem to contain all the elements of popularity. Lancets and permanganate of potash crystals for use in cases of snake-bite were widely distributed in Muzaffarpur and Saran, and several cures were reported. The Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division put a stop to a practice obtaining in the Monghyr district of crediting all private subscriptions to local dispensaries to a central district fund, as it is only reasonable that subscribers should be allowed to indicate the particular institution which they wish to benefit by their generosity.

The total charges for plague preventive measures amounted to Rs. 32,965 against Rs. 57,765 in the previous year. The bulk of the expenditure, as in the previous year, was incurred in the Patna Division (Rs. 20,461), and the diminished severity of the disease fortunately rendered possible a saving under this head. In the Gaya district expenditure was incurred upon the construction of rat-proof grain-*golas*, but it is not reported in what manner they were subsequently managed.

Sanitation.

290. There was a decrease of Rs. 5,091 in the outlay on sanitation principally in the Orissa Division (Rs. 4,144). The largest expenditure was incurred by the District Boards of Gaya (Rs. 5,887), Patna (Rs. 5,112), Midnapore (Rs. 3,370) and Birbhum (Rs. 2,530). The system of cleaning rural towns and villages was continued in the Patna district, and was also followed with more or less energy in the districts of Birbhum, Midnapore, Hooghly, Gaya, Saran and Monghyr. Elsewhere attempts at rural sanitation were merely sporadic, and it cannot be said that the fringe of the subject has as yet been satisfactorily touched. The administrative difficulties lie in the creation of a local agency willing and competent to supervise the work, while the financial difficulty of providing funds for the inception of measures on a large scale is extreme. For the present the District Boards are well advised to concentrate their efforts on particular centres where they can hope to accomplish something effectual, which may at any rate serve as an example to other localities.

Veterinary charges.

291. The expenditure on veterinary charges shows an increase of Rs. 10,095, which was shared by all the Divisions, except the Presidency and Orissa. New veterinary dispensaries were opened, or were under construction, at

Khulna, Chapra and Hazaribagh, and at Patna a new building for the existing hospital was constructed by the Patna Municipality, the District Board assisting with a contribution of Rs. 1,930. All District Boards incurred expenditure on veterinary work, and throughout the Province generally more interest was shown in this important branch of local administration. Attempts were made by the District Boards of Midnapore, Muzaffarpur, Patna and Hooghly to improve the local breed of cattle, and in the case of the two former Boards in particular a considerable measure of success was met with.

Famine relief.

292. No Division except Burdwan entirely escaped expenditure on famine relief, though in the Patna Division the charges incurred were very slight. While the charges on account of productive expenditure, "Public Works," showed an increase of Rs. 71,929 as compared with the figures of the preceding year, the amount expended on "Charitable Relief" was less by Rs. 40,492.

In the Presidency Division there was serious scarcity in the districts of Nadia and Jessore, and some distress in the 24-Parganas and Murshidabad. The position in Nadia and Jessore was rendered more acute by the scarcity which existed in the previous year. In Nadia the whole of the Meherpur subdivision and part of the Chuadanga and Sadar subdivisions were seriously affected, and altogether Rs. 2,12,170 was spent on relief. Out of this sum, Government contributed Rs. 1,41,389, and Rs. 6,375 was received from the Bengal Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The balance, Rs. 64,406, was met from the District Fund. Rupees 10,764 were spent on gratuitous relief, and the remainder on relief works. In Murshidabad Rs. 2,220 were spent on public works started with the object of providing labour in the affected area. In the 24-Parganas the District Board sanctioned an allotment of Rs. 4,000 for a similar object on the appearance of distress in the Basirhat subdivision and parts of the Sadar subdivision, but the allotment was not spent in full. In Jessore the Board made a special advance of Rs. 6,378 for famine relief works which were carried out by the District Engineer. In Muzaffarpur an allotment of Rs. 26,018 was made, but only Rs. 2,437 were actually expended in 1908-1909. In Darbhanga no expenditure was shown, owing to the fact that the accounts were not received before the close of the year. The District Board of Bhagalpur spent Rs. 9,075 on gratuitous relief, salaries and establishment, and miscellaneous charges, in connexion with the scarcity prevailing in the Supaul and Madhipura subdivisions. In Cuttack some small test works were opened. In Balasore the District Board spent Rs. 1,046 in the construction of a road. In Puri the expenditure amounted to Rs. 12,434, but the figure is nominal, being due to the adjustment of charges incurred in the previous year. The District Board of Ranchi advanced Rs. 7,794 for test works. Of this amount, Rs. 5,000 was refunded by Government, and the net expenditure of the Board was, therefore, Rs 2,794 only.

Civil works.

293. The expenditure on "Communications—Original Works" was Rs. 14,67,031, representing a decline of Rs. 2,83,745, which more than counterbalanced the increased expenditure under other sub-heads, with the result that the aggregate expenditure on civil works fell by Rs. 1,85,880. The year 1907-1908, however, was characterised by a considerable increase in expenditure, and the figure for the year under review is slightly in excess of that of 1906-1907 (Rs. 43,77,497). The increase of Rs. 71,929 on public works under the head of "Famine" must also be taken into account, and there is on reason to suppose that there was any undue slackening of activity in this respect.

Although construction programmes had in some cases to be curtailed, good progress was generally made, specially in the important matters of railway feeder roads and bridges. Feeder roads received a large amount of attention from nearly all the Boards, while activity in bridge-building was chiefly confined to the Bihar districts. The failure to spend the whole of the sanctioned allotment for road repairs in the Dhanbaid subdivision of the Manbhum district is to be regretted. There was practically no falling off in the amount spent on the repair of roads, and the total mileage of district roads maintained by the Boards increased by 432. The new provisions in the Local Self-Government Act III of 1885, which authorize the levy of

tolls on newly-constructed or purchased bridges, to cover the cost of construction and the capitalised value of the cost of maintenance, enable District Boards to accelerate the important work of bridging the larger roads under their control.

Water-supply and water-works.

294. In this particular, the expenditure on original works showed an increase of Rs. 39,239, and that on repairs of Rs. 11,106, over the figures of the previous year. As a result of the general scarcity of water, more attention was paid to the construction and repair of wells and tanks, but the apathy of the people in some instances was deplorable. Thus it is reported from Midnapore that neither would the people co-operate with the District Board in improving the water-supply, nor would they make the sources of supply over to the Board in order that the latter might improve them. Successful experiments were made in the use of well-boring plant in Muzaffarpur, and the experience of this District Board might advantageously be consulted by other local bodies desirous of taking similar action. Difficulties were encountered, but they were surmounted, and the results were most encouraging.

Drainage.

295. The actual expenditure on drainage continues to be very small (Rs. 2,740). The only important work in progress is the Magrahât project in the district of 24-Parganas. In the same district Rs. 941 was spent on the survey of the Sunthi and Nawai rivers in the Barasat subdivision, and in connexion with this scheme the Collector has issued notices calling for objections to the rates proposed to be levied. The project has been under consideration for a very long time, and it is hoped that some definite advance will soon be made. The Bagerhât project in Khulna was abandoned, as the cost was found to be prohibitive. Outside the Presidency Division the only expenditure incurred was in Bhagalpur, where the District Board spent Rs. 704 on the construction of *pakka* drains in Madhipura town.

Arboriculture.

296. There was a rise from Rs. 37,588 in 1907-1908 to Rs. 43,622 in the expenditure on arboriculture, and only two Boards, (Jessore and Cuttack,) failed to incur any outlay on this account, as against five in the preceding year. In Birbhum the system of planting trees departmentally was given up, and an experiment tried of letting out on contract the planting of trees along one or two roads. The results achieved may possibly be of interest elsewhere. In most districts regular programmes of operations seem now to be followed, and this is the necessary condition of any progress. To stimulate local interest in the subject, the Patna District Board proposes to celebrate an annual Arbor Day on the 9th August in commemoration of the Coronation of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

Railways and tramways.

297. The existing railway and tramway lines continued to work satisfactorily, and progress was made with a number of new projects. The Antpur-Champadanga extension of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway was opened for traffic from the 24th August 1908, and the line continues to be prosperous. The Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway in the 24-Parganas suffered severely from the failure of jute and other crops, and the Board's half share of the profits during 1908 amounted to Rs. 5,943 only, as against Rs. 16,097 in the previous year. The extension of the line to Hashnabad was completed and opened for traffic in March last. An extension to Patipukhur, in the suburbs of Calcutta, is under construction. The construction of the proposed railway from Krishnagar to Jellinghee is still under consideration, the Board being anxious to construct the line through the agency of the Eastern Bengal State Railway with the aid of a loan from Government. A proposal has also been put forward to construct a light railway from Jessore to Jhenida *viâ* Kaligunge, with a branch to Kotchandpur. In Patna the extension of the Bakhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway to Silao was under construction. In Gaya the construction of a tramway from Gaya *viâ* Bodh Gaya to Sherghati was under consideration, and Messrs. Martin and Company of Calcutta are collecting information in connexion with the project. In Shahabad the survey for the light railway from Arrah to Sasaram was completed, and an agreement was drawn up between Messrs. Martin and Company and the District Board. Messrs. Octavius Steel and Company, Calcutta, were authorized to construct a line of tramway between Dehri-on-Sone on the East Indian Railway and Rohtas. In the Saran district the Chapra-Masrak extension was in progress, and survey operations on the Thaway-Tewaripatti

extension of the Bengal and North-Western Railway were completed by the Railway authorites. The proposed direct line from Muzaffarpur to Darbhanga, with a branch from Tewara to Sitamarhi, is still under the consideration of Government. Apparently nothing has been done regarding the branch line from Samastipur to Roserha, and it is reported that if the Bengal and North-Western Railway continue to delay the line, the District Board will probably ask permission to undertake it. In Monghyr the collection of statistics in connexion with the contemplated light railway from Monghyr to Kharagpur was completed. The four guaranteed lines in the Province continued to work satisfactorily, the Boards' shares of the surplus profits in 1908 being as follows:—

	Rs.
Howrah (Howrah-Amta line)	38,678
Hooghly (Howrah-Sheakhala line)	2,987
24-Parganas (Barasat-Basirhat line)	5,944
Patna (Bakhtiarpur-Bihar line)	1,914

Contributions.

298. Under the head of "Contributions" there was an increase of Rs. 15,878. The District Boards of Burdwan and Muzaffarpur incurred the bulk of the expenditure, viz., Rs. 16,000 and Rs. 17,113 respectively. In Burdwan the District Board refunded the Government grant which was made in 1905-1906 for the construction of primary school buildings, while in Muzaffarpur the expenditure represents the contribution paid to the Muzaffarpur Municipality on account of the surplus tolls of the Akra Ghât pontoon bridge and its connected ferries.

Debt.

299. The increase of debt by Rs. 6,36,228 over the figures of 1907-1908 fell mainly under the sub-head "Deposits and Advances" and was due to expenditure on account of famine in one form or another. The Darbhanga District Board paid heavy sums (Rs. 3,31,482) on account of advances for test works and gratuitous relief prior to the declaration of famine, and the refunds of the security deposits of contractors. The heavy payments in Nadia (Rs. 3,18,344) represented advances for famine relief works and the adjustment of the deposits on account of contributions from Government and the Indian Famine Relief Fund. Unusually heavy expenditure was also incurred in Muzaffarpur (Rs. 81,649), of which Rs. 50,000 was accounted for by the refund and adjustment of an advance for work on tanks, while in Bhagalpur Rs. 94,869, the expenditure which was incurred on the Tiljuga embankment, was debited to this head, and large sums were paid as advances on account of relief operations and land acquisition.

Closing balance.

300. The aggregate closing balances of the District Boards, excluding deposits, amounted to Rs. 18,60,254, as compared with Rs. 25,86,456 at the close of 1907-1908, exhibiting a decline of Rs. 7,26,202. Assuming the retention of a sufficient working balance, the omission to make full use of the available income of the year denotes defective administration, and it is satisfactory to notice that the actual balances declined in all the Divisions, with the exception of Burdwan. Taking individual districts, the best results were returned by the District Board of Nadia, where out of a total sum of Rs. 7,01,649 available for expenditure, the actual balance at the end of the year was Rs. 29,483 only. The districts of Hooghly, Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Manbhum showed the worst results. In Darbhanga the year closed with a deficit balance of Rs. 41,426 as a result of the heavy expenditure on test works and gratuitous relief, the accounts of which were not adjusted during the year under report.

Amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act.

301. The Bengal Local Self-Government Act, III of 1885, was amended during the year by Bengal Act V of 1908. The more important changes made are briefly set forth below. Power was taken to extend the Act to the districts of Singhbhum and the Sonthal Parganas, should that course hereafter appear to be desirable. A considerable delegation of powers to Commissioners of Divisions was effected in respect of the appointment, removal and resignation of members, the election of Chairmen of Local Boards, and the sanctioning of various rules and bye-laws. Power was taken to levy tolls on bridges, and the diversion of the road cess to purposes other than those enumerated in section

109 of the Cess Act, 1880, was prohibited. The application of the District Fund was at the same time extended in various directions. Under the head of education, contributions were permitted to secondary and other schools under private management, and towards the maintenance of hostels, while the constitution of an education committee was provided for. In respect of medical work, authority was given to District Boards to train and employ compounders, midwives and veterinary practitioners; and for the furtherance of sanitation, District Boards, unless specially exempted, were required to appoint sanitation committees and qualified sanitary inspectors. The scope of the expenditure permissible upon veterinary work was greatly extended, and finally changes were introduced which will, it is hoped, extend the sphere of action and usefulness of union committees, which are in future to work in direct subordination to the District Board, unless, with the Commissioner's sanction, the District Board desires that they should be controlled by a Local Board.

General remarks.

302. The administration of the year presented few features of novelty, and in fact was hampered in some instances by the prevalence of scarcity, which both reduced the income of the Boards affected and involved special demands upon their resources. Nevertheless, much useful work appears to have been done, and there was a commendable absence of friction in the working of the Boards.

Volunteering.

Total strength.

303. The number of enrolled volunteers and reservists during the year 1908-1909, was 6,949. The conversion of the Medical Company, 1st Battalion Calcutta Volunteers, into a Bearer Company, the formation of an additional company, to be designated "H" Company, to the same corps and of an additional mounted troop, named "E" Troop, in the Chota Nagpur Mounted Rifles, and the redistribution of the other troops of that corps, were sanctioned.

Sanction was also accorded to the formation of an additional company to the Cossipore Artillery Volunteers, of a new artillery unit in the Calcutta Port Defence Volunteer Corps, and also to the appointment of certain officers to the new unit. The Government of India sanctioned the disbandment of the Sub-Marine Mining Company of the Calcutta Port Defence Volunteers.

Marine.

[The information contained in this Chapter has been obtained from reports which are annually submitted to this Government. The reports consulted are as follows:—

Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, for 1908-1909.
Annual Report on the working of the Shipping Offices at the Port of Calcutta and the Ports of Orissa for the year 1908-1909.
Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for the year 1908-1909.
Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Commission for the year 1908-1909.
Annual Report of the Steam-Boilers' Commission, Bengal, for the year 1908-1909.]

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot Service.

304. The strength of the Pilot Service at the close of the year was 54 Pilots and 15 Leadsmen Apprentices, against 52 and 16 at the end of 1907-1908. During the year one Licensed Branch Pilot retired, two Leadsmen Apprentices were removed from the service, one on account of incompetence and the other on account of bad health, and four Leadsmen Apprentices were recruited from England.

Receipts from pilotage.

305. The pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 13,88,898, against Rs. 13,49,151 in 1907-1908.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

306. One thousand six hundred and forty-two vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,241,062 arrived at the port, while 1,636 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,228,336 left the port. The corresponding numbers in the previous year were 1,567 with a tonnage of 6,010,081, and 1,562 with a tonnage of 5,985,547. The average tonnage of vessels entering and leaving the port was 3,803.

The number of vessels drawing over 21 feet entering and leaving the port increased, being 349 and 914, respectively, against 334 and 896 in the

previous year. Many vessels, chiefly in the coal trade, enter the port in ballast and leave fully laden. Only two vessels were neaped owing to an insufficient depth of water over the bars in the river channel. No vessel was detained during the year for want of a pilot.

307. There were 5 collisions and 18 groundings, against 5 collisions and 20 groundings in the previous year. One case of collision and two cases of grounding were held to have been due to an error of judgment on the part of the pilot in charge. **Casualties.**

Forty-eight preliminary enquiries were held by the Port Officer of which one was referred to a Departmental Court and four to Special Courts of Enquiry. In addition, four Special Courts of Enquiry were held in connexion with casualties which occurred to vessels in charge of Assistant Harbour Masters, and one Magisterial Enquiry, under section 34 of the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884. No Court under Act XII of 1859 was held during the year.

308. Ninety-five candidates appeared at the examinations for the grant of Colonial and Home Trade certificates of competency, of whom 54 passed. At the examinations for the grant of certificates of competency as Master, Serang, Engineer and Engine-driver under the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884, 450 candidates appeared, of whom 173 passed. There was no candidate for license as Steam-tug Pilot. **Examinations.**

CALCUTTA SHIPPING OFFICE.

309. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office during the year amounted to Rs. 85,005, against Rs. 80,453 in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 4,552 was attributable to increased sums received for shipping and discharging fees, to sums outstanding for last year, to increased transactions afloat, and larger recoveries from Masters of vessels on account of fines. **Finance.**

The expenditure was Rs. 45,280 as compared with Rs. 42,112 in the previous year. One of the reasons for the increased expenditure was the revision of the establishment of the Shipping Office, Calcutta.

310. The statement below shows the number of seamen shipped and discharged at the Shipping Offices, Calcutta and Kidderpore, during 1907-1908 and 1908-1909 under European and under Indian articles:— **Seamen shipped and discharged.**

Shipped.

	1907-1908	1908-1909	Increase.	Decrease.
European articles	581	696	115	...
Indian „	39,775	39,344	...	431

Discharged.

European articles	752	804	52	...
Indian „	34,418	34,941	523	...

The increase in shipments and discharges under European articles was due to a certain extent to the preference displayed for Chinese seamen, the decrease in the shipment under Indian articles to the engagement of a larger number of men on coasting articles, and the increase in the discharges under the Indian articles to the fact that a larger number of vessels arrived from outports and discharged their crews at the Shipping Office.

The number of seamen shipped and discharged during the year by Foreign Consuls was respectively 107 and 89.

Eighty-five seamen were repatriated under the Distressed Seamen's Regulations, against 34 in the previous year. Under section 34 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, the expenses incurred in sending distressed seamen home are borne by the owners of the vessels to which the seamen belong.

No seamen were shipped or discharged during the year 1908-1909 at False Point.

Complaints.

311. Complaints regarding the quality of provisions were found to be well grounded in the case of four vessels, and in each case the Port Health Officer condemned the articles of food complained of.

HEALTH OF THE PORT.

Inspection of vessels.

312. Of the crew and passengers of inward and outward bound vessels inspected by the Health Officer, 279,323 were passed and 737 rejected, against 313,183 and 837, respectively, of the previous year. There was a falling off from the previous year in the number of inspections both of European and of Asiatic seamen on inward bound vessels, while in the case of outward bound vessels, there was a small increase in the number of inspections of European seamen, but a decrease in the case of Asiatic seamen.

Health of the port.

313. The health of the European seamen was distinctly worse than in the previous year, the admissions into hospitals and the number of deaths rose from 718 to 999, and from 12 to 23, respectively. The number of venereal cases treated in the hospital similarly increased from 118 to 146.

The health of the native floating population of the port was also unfavourable. The mortality from cholera doubled, and the number of deaths rose from 188 in 1907 to 253.

Sixteen deaths at sea were reported against 20 in 1907.

There was a suspected case of plague on the troop-ship *Hardinge* and a case of small-pox amongst the crew of the D.V. *Retriever* at Saugor. Both patients were removed to hospital and the vessels were disinfected. No case of sleeping sickness or *jigger* was detected on any of the vessels from the East African ports. There was an outbreak of cholera in the coolie lines at No. 19 berth, Kidderpore Docks. The patients were sent to hospital and their quarters disinfected.

Disinfection of vessels.

314. Disinfection was carried out on 152 steamers, boats, etc., against 130 in 1907. Thirteen steamers were fumigated with the Clayton apparatus and Haldar's Patent Fumigator against 5 in 1907. Rats and a large number of cockroaches, etc., were found dead after the fumigation.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Revenue receipts and expenditure.

315. The income of the year amounted to Rs. 1,20,16,630 against Rs. 1,09,57,142 in 1907-1908. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,19,78,134, but the surplus of Rs. 38,496 was reduced to Rs. 23,796 by the net result of transactions for the year 1907-1908 brought to account in 1908-1909. There was also a profit of Rs. 4,617 on transactions in the securities held by the Trust. By the addition of these two sums to the revenue balance on the 1st April 1908, the total at credit of Revenue Account on the 31st March 1909 became Rs. 30,60,423.

Capital outlay.

316. The expenditure during 1908-1909 upon Capital Works was Rs. 60,17,190 including obsolete works written off the Block Account. The more important works in progress or completed during the year were the acquisition of land for future extension of the docks, extension of dock No. 2, four produce berths with two-storied transit sheds, extension of the sale tea-warehouse, reclamation of low-lying land, Kantapukur, Sonai Bazar and Dock Junction, extension of the jetties—two new berths with two-storied transit sheds, improvement of jetty roads, improvements and extension of railway sidings at Cossipore, six new locomotives, new timber depôt, removal and reconstruction of Moti Lal Seal bathing ghât, remodelling of the Budge-Budge petroleum depôt, and four new ferry steamers.

Capital account, &c.

317. The Capital debt of the Trust on the 31st March 1909 was Rs. 7,37,07,132; against this, the Commissioners hold property aggregating Rs. 9,31,73,399. The latter figure does not represent the total value of the Commissioners' property, as the value of a large area of land is included in the assets at cost price only. The amounts at credit of (1) the Sinking Fund, (2) the Depreciation Fund and (3) the Fire Insurance Fund are Rs. 77,02,067, Rs. 5,10,156 and Rs. 7,09,616 respectively.

318. The following table shows the details of the receipts and charges of the Revenue Account for the year 1908-1909, as compared with similar figures for the previous year :— Financial results of 1908-1909 compared with 1907-1908.

	1908-1909.				1907-1908.				Difference between 1908-1909 and 1907-1908.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	4,005	8,16,106	...	8,12,101	4,206	8,06,982	...	8,02,776	...	9,325
II.—Jetties	13,56,621	7,90,629	5,65,992	...	15,69,640	8,32,207	7,37,433	...	...	1,71,441
III.—Tea Warehouse ...	1,69,807	97,976	71,831	...	1,60,622	1,03,452	57,170	...	14,661	...
IV.—Petroleum Wharf ...	2,19,145	51,437	1,67,708	...	1,89,243	39,519	1,49,724	...	17,984	...
V.—I. V. Wharves	4,35,658	2,07,707	2,27,951	...	4,18,151	1,35,229	2,82,922	...	...	54,971
VI.—Rentable lands and buildings.	12,97,398	1,65,097	11,32,301	...	11,13,462	1,15,059	9,98,403	...	1,33,898	...
VII.—Port	5,66,614	5,96,844	...	30,230	5,13,377	5,18,949	...	5,572	...	24,658
VIII.—Port Approaches ...	6,99,246	6,15,147	84,099	...	6,95,329	6,31,666	63,663	...	20,436	...
IX.—Railways	14,27,440	9,95,960	4,31,480	...	13,16,014	8,97,774	4,18,240	...	13,240	...
X.—Wet Docks	29,53,799	29,02,010	51,789	...	27,12,997	29,00,535	...	1,87,538	3,39,327	...
XI.—Dry Docks	3,07,657	70,129	2,37,528	...	3,06,349	79,923	2,26,417	...	11,111	...
XII.—Ferry Service	1,27,816	1,89,128	...	61,312	46,075	70,500	...	24,425	...	36,887
XIII.—River dues	22,15,519	...	22,15,519	...	18,18,028	...	18,18,028	...	3,97,491	...
Sale of unserviceable material ...	26,812	...	26,812	...	40,205	...	40,205	...	...	13,393
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	19,798	...	19,798	...	19,957	...	19,957	...	...	159
Interest on Revenue Reserve ...	1,05,896	...	1,05,896	...	33,497	...	33,497	...	72,399	...
Interest and Sinking Fund ...	...	42,31,082	...	42,31,082	....	36,52,310	...	36,52,310	...	5,78,772
Interest on Bank Deposits ...	17,767	...	17,767	...	...	...	...	...	17,767	...
Penal interest on debentures issued.	37,779	...	37,779	...	...	...	...	...	37,779	...
Excess found on verification of stock.	27,853	...	27,853	...	...	...	...	...	27,853	...
Contribution to Depreciation and Fire Insurance Funds.	...	1,18,750	...	1,18,750	...	...	...	...	...	1,18,750
Compensation paid to Timber Merchants.	...	30,015	...	30,015	...	...	...	...	...	30,015
Penalty charges on coal waived or refunded.	...	1,00,117	...	1,00,117	...	...	...	...	...	1,00,117
Total ...	1,20,16,630	1,19,78,134	54,22,103	53,83,607	1,09,57,143	1,07,84,105	48,45,659	46,72,621	10,03,946	11,38,488

One thousand six hundred and forty-four vessels, with a gross registered tonnage of 6,250,824, visited the port, against 1,555 vessels with a gross registered tonnage of 5,995,275 in the previous year.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

319. The income amounted to Rs. 2,24,769 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,30,253, compared with Rs. 2,40,593 and Rs. 2,21,111, respectively, in the previous year. There was thus a deficit of Rs. 5,484 in 1908-1909, while there was a surplus of Rs. 19,482 in 1907-1908. The receipts from the toll payable by the East Indian Railway fell from Rs. 2,16,360 to Rs. 2,01,065. Finance.

320. The bridge was opened on 305 occasions, of which 80 were day openings and 225 night openings. The number of vessels which passed through the bridge was 3,142 against 3,020 in the previous year. Openings of the bridge.

321. The total number of accidents was 27, as compared with 34 in 1907-1908. The accidents to cargo and passenger boats were 19, against 27 in the previous year. Mr. Molseed, a watchman of the bridge, lost his life in attempting to rescue a boat, and on another occasion a *mistri* in the employ of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation fell from the bridge and was drowned. Accidents.

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

322. The receipts of the ports during the year amounted to Rs. 8,917-9-7, compared with Rs. 6,522-3-9 in the previous year. Deducting a Government contribution of Rs. 2,980-5-7, which was sanctioned to meet the deficit of 1907-1908, the net receipts amounted to Rs. 5,937-4. Finance.

The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 17,432-12-3 as compared with Rs. 17,732-5-3 in the preceding year. Comparison of receipts and expenditure exhibits a resultant deficit of Rs. 11,495-8-3, which was met by a contribution from Provincial Revenues. The question of bringing the financial position of the Orissa Port Fund into a state of equilibrium is under the consideration of Government.

Trade. 323. The value of trade during the year was Rs. 59,87,487, against Rs. 54,45,337 in the preceding year. The increase was due to the importation of a large quantity of Burma rice and paddy during the early part of the year owing to the scarcity then prevailing in the districts of the Orissa Division, and also to the subsequent excellent harvest, which admitted of exportation of rice from Balasore during the latter part of the year.

Shipping. 324. The number of vessels which entered the ports during the year was 173, with an aggregate tonnage of 106,767, as compared with 157, with an aggregate tonnage of 69,550, in the preceding year. There was an increase in inward passenger traffic in the ports of Chandbali and Puri.

Inspection. 325. The Port Officer of Calcutta, who inspected all the ports and lights during the year, found them to be in a satisfactory condition. The erosion of Shortt's Island on the sea-face continues.

Smoke-nuisances Commission.

Observation of smoke and inspection of furnaces. 326. The Chief Inspector and the Assistant Inspector of Smoke-nuisances made 3,657 observations of smoke emission from chimneys, and 2,210 inspections of furnaces. In 205 cases the appliances for stoking were tested. Mechanical stokers and smoke appliances were fitted in seven furnaces. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a reduction of the average emission of dense black smoke, and it is now less than one-sixth of what it was in April 1906. Relief could, in many cases, be given by increasing the height of the chimneys and the height of 51 chimneys has actually been raised as a result of statutory warnings, while nine have been raised voluntarily. Eighteen prosecutions were undertaken by the Commission for infringement of the provisions of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905, and convictions were obtained in each case.

Use of electro-motors. 327. The use of motors driven by electricity, oil, or gas would afford a permanent remedy for the smoke-nuisance, and it is satisfactory that 127 electro-motors, two oil-motors and one suction-gas motor were installed during the year, and that other electro-motor installations are in progress.

Coke-making without ovens prohibited. 328. The Commission having brought to notice that the smoke emitted by the making of coke without ovens or special appliances is a serious nuisance in Calcutta and its suburbs, a rule has recently been made by Government prohibiting it in those areas.

Steam-boiler Commission.

Inspection of boilers. 329. At the close of the year there were on the registers 4,599 boilers belonging to firms in the town and suburbs of Calcutta and the districts to which the Bengal Steam-Boilers and Prime-Movers Act, 1879, has been extended. Of this number, 4,058 were inspected and certified during the year, as against 3,678 and 3,215 in 1907-1908 and 1906-1907, respectively. The remaining 541 boilers were not inspected or certified, being either temporarily or permanently out of use.

New boilers. 330. There was an unusually large importation of new boilers into Bengal during the past two official years, chiefly for use in the colliery district, but owing to the general depression in trade and especially to the slump in the coal market, very few have since been imported. The number of new boilers inspected and certified during 1908-1909 and 1907-1908 was 415 and 393, respectively.

Extension of the Act. 331. The provisions of the Act have been extended to the district of Shahabad with effect from the 1st June 1908, to the town of Monghyr with effect from the 1st August 1908, and to the Pusa Estate with effect from the 15th September 1908.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending the 30th June 1909.]

Organization.

332. The question of the organization of the Provincial Agricultural Service is still under consideration. The present staff of provincial officers consists of four Assistants who are being trained for employment as teachers at the Provincial Agricultural College, two travelling inspectors, seven superintendents or overseers in charge of agricultural stations, six inspectors of agriculture, one assistant mycologist and one assistant entomologist. Three students returned from America in 1907-1908 after receiving agricultural training at the Cornell University, and were appointed assistants in the department; while of the two who returned during 1908-1909, one entered the department as a probationer.

Agricultural stations.

333. Six agricultural stations—at Dumraon, Bankipore, Sabaur, Chinsura, Burdwan and Cuttack—were at work during the year. Steps were taken to start two more stations, namely, at Kharagpur in Midnapore to represent the laterite area, and at Ranchi to represent the Chota Nagpur plateau, but the projects have been kept in abeyance owing to financial exigencies. The experimental work at Fraserganj was stopped because of the difficulty of supervision, and the two small jute seed farms maintained at Berhampore and Purnea were closed, as the work can be done equally well at the Chinsura and Burdwan stations.

Scientific experiments.

334. The experimental cultivation of various kinds of crops, including jute, cotton, flax, sugarcane, potato and rice was carried on at various places in the Province with diverse results. Experiments with jute conducted at the Burdwan station on the lines laid down by the Inspector-General of Agriculture were attended with successful results and proved conclusively that, with due care in cultivation and retting, the Burdwan cultivators could produce from the Narayanganj seed as good fibre as is to be found in Eastern Bengal. The cultivation of jute by indigo planters in Bihar has been discontinued.

The experiments with cotton had unsatisfactory results. The flax cultivation at Dhooria in Muzaffarpur was financially very successful, and justified the Government contribution towards half the salary of the expert who is being employed. The Agricultural Chemist conducted a series of experiments to test the sugar-yielding properties of the different varieties of sugarcane, but no definite conclusions have yet been reached.

Sericulture.

335. The work of the silk-rearing establishment made statisfactory progress during the year. The old Silk Committee, consisting of non-official members, was abolished and was replaced by a new one with four silk experts as members and the Director of Agriculture as president. Under the supervision of this new committee a mulberry farm with a central seed-rearing nursery was started at Berhampore. The nine model nurseries belonging to the old Silk Committee have been brought under Government management, and five new ones are under construction, of which three are in Berhampore, one in Birbhum and one in Midnapore. They are intended to supply healthy seed to the rearers of silk-worms. The total value of the seed sold was Rs. 5,874. Experiments made with Japanese and Italian mulberry seed gave encouraging results.

Agricultural education.

336. Little advance was made during the year in the promotion of agricultural education in the Province. Unexpected delay in the commencement of the Agricultural College buildings at Sabaur will prevent the opening of the classes before November 1910. Meanwhile, the agricultural classes at the Sibpur Engineering College have been abolished, but an attempt to secure some continuity in training has been made by the grant of scholarships at institutions in other Provinces. The students attending the agricultural classes attached to the several zilla schools and the collegiate school at Cuttack

generally took little real interest in their work, the only exception being at Gaya, where agricultural instruction has been made a part of the general routine. The deputation of more students to America to study agriculture was discontinued during the year, partly because the supply of such trained men was likely to exceed the immediate requirements of the department and also because it seemed doubtful whether a training under American conditions was altogether suitable for this country.

Fairs and shows.

337. The agricultural fairs and shows held during the year, 23 in number, of which 12 are at the head-quarters of districts, and the others for the most part at subdivisional head-quarters, received grants-in-aid from Government aggregating Rs. 6,522. They appear to be continuing to serve a very useful purpose.

Irrigation.

338. The well-boring operations which have been undertaken in this Province on the recommendation of the Indian Irrigation Commission have made little progress during the year. A large number of artesian wells were bored during the year in Muzaffarpur by the District Board in connection with the scarcity of water that prevailed there, and were generally successful.

Publication of agricultural information.

339. Besides the quarterly *Journal of Agriculture* which was started in the preceding year, the department published and circulated leaflets and notes containing information in connection with agriculture. Large quantities of seeds of various crops, manures and agricultural implements were issued from the Government central seed store, which was removed during the year to the site of the Agricultural School Farm at Sibpur.

Indigo research.

340. The indigo research operations at Sirsiah were continued with the aid of the Government subsidy of Rs. 50,000. For the next five years Government will contribute Rs. 32,500 a year on condition that the Bihar Planters' Association subscribe Rs. 10,000 annually to the cost of the research work. The Association have obtained for that period the services of Mr. C. J. Bergthiel, who has resigned his post as Imperial Bacteriologist in the Pusa Agricultural College and Research Institute in order to carry out and complete his researches successfully.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Credit Societies for 1908-1909.]

Change of year.

341. There was a change in the period covered by the annual report dealing with the working of Co-operative Credit Societies. In place of the year ending on the 30th June which the Department of Agriculture employs, it has been decided to adopt the ordinary financial year ending on the 31st March.

General aspects.

342. Since the passing of Act X of 1904 progress in Bengal has been along very simple and uniform lines. No attempt has been made to experiment with different forms of rural societies, and attention has been concentrated on the Raiffeisen type only. The earliest societies were disconnected units, formed sporadically where opportunity offered. Subsequent additions were in many cases due to the exertions of individual organisers of the older societies, whose personality served as a connecting link between them. This year a further step has been taken, and such groups of societies have been combined in self-administered unions. The policy has been followed of developing compact areas in each district and extending from these as centres, with the object of avoiding the waste of power which would follow from the dissipation of attention over single scattered societies.

Types of societies.

343. The societies in Bengal are of two types. In the first the liability is limited, and for the most part the societies are urban; in the second the liability is unlimited and they are rural, and it is this second class which demands the particular attention of the Registrar.

A new form of society of an interesting type has been formed under the patronage of Sir Daniel Hamilton with the object of reclaiming waste lands in the Sundarbans. The joint capital will be employed in clearing the jungle and raising embankments, and the society will make advances to its members to enable them to cultivate the land and to settle tenants thereon. The progress of this society will be watched with much interest.

344. During the past year the number of societies in the Province has risen from 350 to 395, or by 13 per cent. The membership has increased from 12,094 to 14,640, equivalent to 21 per cent., while the capital has risen from Rs. 2,25,437 to Rs. 3,65,086, or by 62 per cent. All the town societies have made considerable strides during the year. There has been no large increase in their number, but the co-operative spirit in them has developed greatly. Confidence is now thoroughly established, and they are financed almost entirely by share capital and the deposits of their members. It is anticipated that this form of co-operation will spread without much further assistance from the Registrar amongst the mercantile firms in Calcutta and the Government offices throughout the Province. Number of societies and their position.

The development of co-operative credit in the mufassal has reached a critical stage. There are now 359 rural societies, being an increase of 33 during the year, and the Registrar and his Personal Assistant are no longer able to do more than visit each society once or perhaps twice in a year. It is on efficient control that the success of the existing societies hinges, and their future prospects depend upon the ability of the Registrar to evolve a satisfactory system of control.

345. The Registrar is of opinion that unless and until the real work of forming societies and educating the members is adopted in earnest by the people themselves, the movement will be confined within the very definite limits of a kindly but ineffective official experiment. During the past year the press has given a small measure of increased attention to co-operation, and there are signs that some who have it in their power to assist are beginning to realise the possibilities for good which the movement possesses, but, on the whole, evidence of popular interest has been disappointing. Development and organization.

The second condition of any substantial success is the creation of some higher form of organization. During the year the Registrar has given his attention to this problem on the lines laid down at the last conference of Registrars, when it was decided to aim at federation into unions on a joint stock basis. In such unions societies are to be the only shareholders, and the unions will be restricted to dealings with their shareholders only. Two such unions were formed during the year, one at Raruli in Khulna and the other at Khelar in Midnapore. In the opinion of the Registrar the progress made so far is encouraging, and the experience gained tends to prove that the combination of societies into unions is not only theoretically sound, but is also quite practicable in existing circumstances in Bengal. The Midnapore union has already become financially independent of the help of the Registrar, and can now secure funds locally without any difficulty.

346. Analysis of the sources from which the working capital of the societies is obtained shows that only 4 per cent. of the capital has been advanced by Government and the Court of Wards, 21 per cent. has been advanced by large zamindars to societies among their raiyats (the larger part by the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga), while 48 per cent. has been invested by the outside public. The amount of capital invested by the members and the local public is still very small, amounting to only 13 per cent. While the success of a society cannot be judged entirely from the amount of money deposited by its members, the fact that they have a stake in it greatly increases its stability and its attraction for local capital. Sources of capital and purposes of loans.

The analysis of the purposes to which loans taken from societies have been applied is of interest. Repayment of debts accounts for 37 per cent., cultivation and the purchase of cattle for 36 per cent., and marriage expenses for only 1·4 per cent. It would appear, therefore, that it is a sound principle to leave to the discretion of the panchayat the purpose for which loans can be given. The important distinction is not between productive and unproductive expenditure, but between expenditure which is necessary and that which is not. And the panchayat is the best judge of what is necessary.

347. The experiment was continued of trying to employ the large grain *golas* of the Sonthal Parganas as central agencies for village grain societies, and it appears to have met with a moderate amount of success. In the Registrar's opinion the village grain banks will be successful only if kept on a small scale, and as their utility is limited, they will tend as soon as they are successful to develop into cash societies. Village grain societies.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1908-1909. Crop Forecasts of Bengal for 1908-1909. Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1908-1909.]

Character of the season.

348. Ante-monsoon showers were defective in April, May and the beginning of June. The monsoon broke about the middle of June, when heavy showers fell in South-West Bengal. Elsewhere the fall was below normal. In July and August ample rain was received throughout the Province, Bihar excepted. The crops suffered from heavy rain in South-West Bengal and in Orissa, and from drought in Bihar. In the first week of October the rainfall was general but thereafter drought prevailed, especially in Bihar. This affected the outturn of winter rice and hindered the growth of the early spring crops. The rainfall in the latter part of January benefited the spring crops, but it was scanty in Bihar.

The table below shows the estimated area and outturn in 1908-1909 of *bhadoi*, winter and *rabi* crops, in comparison with the corresponding estimates of the previous year and of a normal year:—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1907-08 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1908-09 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1907-08?	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1908-09?
Bhadoi	11,085,400	10,916,100	10,307,400	72	65
Winter { Winter rice ...	20,831,800	19,836,300	17,916,200	53	72
Winter { Sugarcane ...	430,200	436,200	375,100	85	62
Rabi	12,282,900	9,117,000	9,401,600	68	67
Total ...	44,630,300	40,305,600	38,000,300	62	69

Bhadoi or autumn crops.

349. The above statement shows that the total area cultivated during 1908-09 with different kinds of *bhadoi* crops was estimated at 10,307,400 acres against an estimate of 10,916,100 acres for the preceding year. The normal area under *bhadoi* crops is 11,085,400 acres. The outturn was estimated at 65 per cent. in 1908-09 against 72 per cent. in 1907-08. In Orissa and Chota Nagpur weather conditions were favourable. In Lower Bengal, except in Nadia and Murshidabad, a fair outturn was obtained. The crops, however, suffered from excessive rain in July as well as from attacks of insect pests. In Bihar the season was very unfavourable. Want of rain during the monsoon season and the early cessation of rain thereafter affected the crops adversely. The total *bhadoi* food-crops covered an area of 9,092,600 acres while the normal area is reported to be 9,378,500 acres. The outturn of these crops amounted to 65 per cent. of a normal harvest.

The total area sown with all the different kinds of *bhadoi* non-food crops, including jute, early cotton, indigo and *bhadoi* til, was estimated at 1,214,800 acres, compared with a normal area of 1,706,900 acres. In Purnea, the most important jute district of Bengal, conditions were favourable at the beginning of the season, but later the crop suffered from drought, and there was a lack of water for steeping. In the important jute districts of the Presidency Division and in Howrah and Hooghly the crop suffered from want of moisture in the early part of the season, and in June and July from floods. The outturn of jute in this Province including Cooch Behar was estimated at about 62 per cent. of an average crop, and the gross yield at 10·65 lakhs of bales. Indigo is cultivated chiefly in the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, and the season in these three districts was a bad one owing to want of moisture. A smaller area was sown than in the previous year, and the growth of the crop was injuriously affected. A better outturn was, however, obtained in North Bihar from the second cuttings,

and the gross yield of the crop for the Province worked out to 26,331 factory maunds. The total outturn of *bhadoi* non-food crops was estimated at 66 per cent. of the normal.

350. The season was unfavourable for *aghani* crops throughout Bihar. The serious deficiency of rain during the monsoon season prevented the full normal area being sown, and also retarded the growth of the crops. Short rainfall in the month of September and drought from October onwards did much damage, especially in North Bihar. In Lower Bengal, Orissa and Chota Nagpur, although the crop was damaged by heavy rain in July and August, and by insect pests in some districts, the prospects continued favourable till September, but the cessation of rain early in October affected the outturn in many districts. Except in Nadia and in parts of Palamau, where the crop partially failed, a fair outturn was obtained. The area sown with winter-rice amounted to 17,916,200 acres as compared with 19,836,300 acres sown in the preceding year. The normal area under the crop was 20,831,800 acres. The outturn of the crop for the Province was estimated at 72 per cent. of the normal against 53 per cent., the estimated outturn of the previous year. Aghani crops.

The weather conditions on the whole were unfavourable for sugarcane. The crop suffered in Lower Bengal owing to insufficient rain during the sowing season and to heavy rain in the months of July and August. In Bihar, the outturn was adversely affected by the cessation of rain early in October. The provincial outturn was estimated at 62 per cent. of the normal crop.

351. *Rabi* sowings commenced in some districts early in September, but progress was retarded for want of sufficient moisture. Crops suffered from the absence of rain especially in North Bihar. The rainfall in the latter part of January and in the beginning of February benefited the crops, but it was badly distributed in Bihar, where these crops are very important. On the whole, the season was unfavourable. The total area under all kinds of *rabi* crops was estimated at 9,401,600 acres against 9,117,000 acres of last year. The total normal area under these crops is 12,282,900 acres. The various *rabi* food-crops of the Province, including wheat, were sown on 7,036,200 acres against 6,842,100 acres in the preceding year. The outturn according to district returns works out at 68 per cent. of the normal. The total area of the different *rabi* non-food crops amounted to 2,365,400 acres against 2,274,900 acres in the previous year. The provincial outturn was estimated at 64 per cent. of the normal. The total outturn of all *rabi* crops (both food and non-food) was returned as 67 per cent. of a normal harvest. Sambalpur and the Sonthal Parganas are the most important of the early cotton-growing districts. The crop suffered to some extent in the former district owing to excessive rain in August and in the latter district owing to drought in the beginning of the season. The season was favourable in the other cotton districts. Weather conditions were less favourable for the late crop, which was injuriously affected owing to the cessation of rain early in October. The total outturn of the crops for the whole Province amounted, according to the district officers' estimates, to 14,865 bales, against 15,143 bales in the previous year. Rabi or spring crops.

352. The rainfall in the Burdwan Division generally was copious and well distributed at the beginning of, and throughout, the sowing season. *Bhadoi* crops suffered considerably from excessive rain in July and from the ravages of insect pests. Jute fared worse from want of rain at the sowing season and from excessive rain later on. Owing to the early cessation of rain, the winter rice crop fell about 15 per cent. below the normal. The absence of rain from the beginning of October seriously affected the *rabi* harvest. The total outturn of the different *bhadoi* food crops of the Division was 78 per cent., and of *rabi* food-crops 63 per cent. of the normal. Divisional summary. Burdwan.

353. The rainfall in the Presidency Division was irregularly distributed. It was excessive in June and July, and it stopped unseasonably early in October. The heavy rains of June and July damaged the *bhadoi* crops and, to a certain extent, the winter-rice crop also, and the winter-rice and *rabi* crops were affected by the drought which began in October. In the Baraset and Basirhat subdivisions of the 24-Parganas district the *bhadoi* and winter-rice crops were also damaged by insect pests. In the Sundarbans tract of the 24-Parganas and Khulna, the outturn obtained from the winter-rice crop was satisfactory. In Presidency.

Nadia, the outturn of both the *bhadoi* and the winter-rice crops was poor, and owing to the early cessation of the rains, the area under *rabi* crops was greatly contracted. In Murshidabad, the *rabi* crops were benefited by the rain which fell in the cold weather. *Bhadoi* food-crops in the Division yielded only 59 per cent. and winter-rice 80 per cent. of the normal, while the outturn of all *rabi* food-crops was estimated at 59 per cent.

Patna. 354. In Patna and Shahabad the rainfall was very unsatisfactory in October, and there was practically no rain in November and December in any of the three districts. The deficiency of rain during the monsoon season and the early cessation of the monsoon current affected the outturn of the *bhadoi* crops injuriously. The absence of rain from October to December also greatly diminished the outturn of the winter-rice crop. The *rabi* crops suffered to some extent at the outset owing to want of rain, but the seasonable rainfall which occurred in January improved their condition. The outturn of the *bhadoi* food crops for the Division as a whole amounted to 59 per cent., of winter-rice to 44 per cent., and of *rabi* food-crops to 70 per cent., of the normal yield. The outturn of opium and sugarcane was 81 and 77 per cent., respectively, and of indigo 76 per cent.

Tirhut. 355. In the Tirhut Division the rainfall during the year was considerably below the average and, moreover, was distributed unevenly. Want of sufficient rain during the monsoon season prevented the sowing of the full normal area under *bhadoi* crops, and the drought between the middle of July and the early part of September retarded their growth and also checked the transplantation of the winter-paddy crop. The drought from September to the close of the year resulted in the failure of winter-paddy over a large portion of the Division and reduced the area of *rabi* sowings. In parts of the Sadar and the Sitamarhi subdivisions of Muzaffarpur the crop was a total failure. Champaran and Saran also suffered, but less severely. The failure in Darbhanga was bad; the people had little resisting power, and famine relief operations became necessary in the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions. The outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops in this Division was estimated at 49 per cent., of winter-rice at 31 per cent. and of *rabi* food-crops at 56 per cent. Opium and sugarcane yielded 65 and 44 per cent., respectively, of the normal and indigo 78 per cent.

Bhagalpur. 356. The crops suffered more or less from the irregular distribution of the rains in all the districts of the Bhagalpur Division except the Sonthal Parganas where the outturn was fairly satisfactory. Winter-rice suffered severely especially in Purnea, where it is the staple food-crop. Jute, which is an important crop in that district, was greatly damaged owing to the absence of sufficient water for steeping. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave an outturn of 55 per cent., winter-rice of 39 per cent. and *rabi* food-crops of 56 per cent. The yield of indigo and opium was 53 and 46 per cent. of the normal, while that of sugarcane 55 per cent.

Orissa. 357. The rainfall in Orissa was scanty up to the middle of June. Heavy rain in July and August gave rise to floods in parts of the Division, which did damage to the *bhadoi* and the winter-rice crops in the low-lying tracts of Puri, Balasore and Cuttack. The rainfall was deficient towards the end of September and the beginning of October, and but for this the winter-rice crop would have been a bumper one. The short rainfall of October also retarded *rabi* sowings and injuriously affected the outturn of the crop. In Sambalpur, the rainfall of the year was the highest in the quinquennial period, and the outturn of the various crops was above the average. The yield of the *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division was estimated at 80 per cent., while winter-rice gave an outturn of 76 per cent. The outturn of *rabi* food-crops was returned at 64 per cent. of a normal yield.

Chota Nagpur. 358. The distribution of the rainfall in the Chota Nagpur Division was, on the whole, good and, but for the somewhat early cessation of the monsoon, would have been very favourable. The outturn of all crops was much greater than in the previous year. In Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum the crops were good; in Hazaribagh they were fairly good; in Palamau they were only fair. Throughout the Division the *rabi* crops gave the poorest results. Except in a small area in Palamau, where there has been a succession of bad or indifferent crops, the crop outturn of the Division was so satisfactory as to enable the people to recover from the scarcity which ensued on the bad crops of 1907-08.

The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave an outturn of 89 per cent., winter-rice of 94 per cent. and *rabi* food-crops of 70 per cent. of the normal.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden for 1908-1909.]

General. 359. The abnormal high temperature and drought that characterised the first and last few months of the year affected the garden to a certain extent. The survey of the garden was completed early in the year and during the cold weather the task of ticketing the trees and shrubs was accomplished. Over 13,300 trees and shrubs were carefully numbered with reference to the co-ordinated squares on the map previously prepared and were provisionally named in a rough list. The actual number of individual trees and shrubs cultivated in the garden falls little short of 15,000. Continued attention has been devoted to combating the undermining effect of the river on certain parts of its bank and a new plan of defence has been devised and put into execution. Towards the end of the year a beginning was made with the opening up of the Palmetum, which has become extremely congested of late years. A beginning has been made with the substitution of imperishable labels with raised lettering for the present painted zinc plant-labels.

Economic. 360. Exchange of plants and seeds of economic importance with other countries has been continued. The introduction of most economic importance consisted of two new species of rubber-yielding trees. All the available seed has now been distributed to various parts of India, but a good many have been sown in the garden.

Herbarium. 361. Between seventeen and eighteen thousand specimens were added to the Herbarium during the year. Of Indian plants the most important contribution, consisting of nearly 9,000 specimens, was made by Mr. A. Meebold. The Curator collected about 3,000 specimens from the Eastern Himalaya, chiefly from the lower elevations. Mr. W. G. Craib, while officiating as Curator of the Herbarium, collected and subsequently named over 1,300 specimens from the North Cachar Hills. The late Sir Harold Deane, K.C.S.I., forwarded what unhappily was his last collection, about 100 specimens from the North-Western Frontier. The accessions from outside India by gift or purchase comprise collections from Eastern Tibet and Yunnan, Java, the Philippine Islands, Australia, South Africa, North Africa, Persia, Europe and America. Over 5,000 sheets, chiefly Malayan and Himalayan specimens, have been distributed to other herbaria in and outside of India. During the rains Herbarium work was entirely disorganised for about two months owing to a serious leakage in the Herbarium roof, which necessitated extensive repairs.

Publications. 362. Part II of Vol. VI and Vol. XI of the Annals of the garden were issued and the third volume of the Records of the Botanical Survey of India was finished.

Interchange of seeds and plants. 363. Over 1,100 packets of seeds of many various species were received from institutions and individuals in all parts of the world. Over 3,000 packets of seeds of tropical, semi-tropical and temperate plants were issued to places all over the world, seeds of economic plants forming as usual a large proportion. Over 9,000 plants were received during the year, the principal contributors being the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Director of Agriculture, Dutch Indies, M. Buysman of Lawang, Java and the United States Agriculture Department. Over 33,000 plants were distributed, mostly within India, chiefly for road-side arboriculture, the improvement of stations, and similar purposes.

Lloyd Botanic Garden. 364. The Lloyd Botanic Garden has been maintained in good condition throughout the year. Several of the sloping lawns have been re-made, and the nursery accommodation increased by the addition of three terraces. A good deal of trouble has been experienced from the presence of the cockchafer grub, an old enemy of the garden, but means have been taken to restrict its ravages. During the year the bamboo *Arundinaria Hookeriana* flowered throughout the station and died, with the result that some handsome clumps of it have disappeared.

Calcutta Gadrens.

365. In the Eden Garden the old formal flower garden has been remodelled, and a new rose garden laid out, but lack of funds prevented the intended improvement of the garden in the neighbourhood of the bandstand from being carried out. In the Dalhousie Square Garden the experience of the last few years has shown the necessity of modifying the alignment and width of some of the paths. There is scope also for better effect than at present in the treatment of the borders, and of the lawns along the tank, and it is hoped that during the present year something will be accomplished in this direction. Considerable changes have been effected in the Curzon Garden in the way of remodelling and replanting the rather unwieldy beds of shrubs, while several of the paths have been re-made.

Cinchona Plantation and Factory.

General.

366. The unusual drought at Mangpu in the second half of the year affected the old plantation adversely, the total rainfall being only 98·23 inches. At Munsong, though only 84·92 inches were registered, the rainfall was much nearer the average than at Mangpu and more evenly distributed.

Extensions.

367. Extensions have ceased on the Mangpu plantation, but cultivation has been maintained sufficiently to meet the requirements of a rapidly declining plantation. At Munsong, where the plantation has been kept in a good state of cultivation throughout, a considerable amount of heavy pioneer work, such as road-making, has been accomplished as a necessary preliminary to the contemplated extensions beyond the boundaries of the present Munsong Division.

Outturn.

368. The production of quinine sulphate amounted to 36,619 lbs. of an increase of 9,055 lbs.; 7,281 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were manufactured, while 285 lbs. of amorphous alkaloid were collected. The total output for the year was thus 43,901 lbs., representing an excess of 12,967 lbs. over the preceding year. The output of quinine has been practically trebled since 1904. The Quinologist and Assistant Quinologist devoted some time to the production of quinine sulphate in tablet form with quite satisfactory results. Entirely new arrangements have been made for the re-crystallisation of the product and a new quinine drying-room has been built with the necessary machinery for maintaining a constant supply of dry air.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report of the Forest Department in the Province of Bengal for the year 1908-1909.]

The Forest Services.

369. The present strength of the Imperial Forest Service is not more than sufficient for the supervision of the existing Government forests, and the question of applying for an officer to assist the Commissioner of Orissa in the management of the forests in the Orissa Tributary States is under the consideration of Government. It is also recognized that the strength of the subordinate service is not adequate for the requirements of forest administration in the Province, and the proposals of the Conservator for an increase of the cadre are awaited by Government.

Communications, etc.

370. Fifty-eight miles of forest roads were completed in 1908-1909, against 60 miles in the previous year, the cost falling from Rs. 26,899 to Rs. 15,463. Most of this work was done in the Singhbhum Division. The housing of subordinates continues to improve.

Management of protected forests.

371. During the year the Conservator of Forests brought it to the notice of Government that owing to excessive grazing and demands upon them beyond their yield for wood and other produce, protected forests are rapidly disappearing in many places. As Government recognises that the preservation of such forests is, under certain conditions, an administrative necessity, the Conservator was directed to submit proposals for the more effective management of those protected forests of which he considers the maintenance essential.

Protection from fire.

372. The success of the special measures taken for fire-protection during 1908 was very marked, as little over 1 per cent. of the areas so protected were

burnt. The efforts of the forest officers were assisted by the early commencement of the monsoon and the occurrence of showers during the hot-weather months of April and May. One disastrous fire occurred in the Darjeeling Division where conditions as to rain were less favourable. This fire starting in Nepal gathered such headway before it crossed the frontier, driven by a strong west wind, that forest covering over 6,000 acres was burnt before the fire could be extinguished. In order to aviod a similar conflagration in future the Nepal Darbar has been requested to assist in the maintenance of an adequate fire-line on the border.

Protection from cattle and against injuries from other causes.

373. The most difficult forest question at present engaging the attention of Government and the Forest Department is the supply of adequate facilities for grazing and for gathering fodder. It is hoped to find a solution in a combination of partial stall-feeding with fenced paddocks, which the Conservator has been trying to introduce. Depredations by wild animals continue to give trouble. The measures taken last year for the destruction of man-eating tigers led to a diminution in the number of persons killed, but no less than 103 persons met their death from wild animals. It is clear that they are still both numerous and savage, but it is to be hoped that the increase of the reward for killing a tiger in the Sundarbans to Rs. 200 will lead to their destruction in greater numbers.

Sylviculture.

374. Owing to the increased expense of planting, closer attention has been paid in recent years to natural regeneration. It is reported that *sál* regeneration can be obtained under the conditions prevalent in most of the forests of this circle. It may be anticipated, therefore, that recourse to artificial reproduction will in future become the exception rather than the rule.

Financial results.

375. From a financial and commercial point of view the results of the working of the year were very satisfactory. The total revenue rose to Rs. 12,16,948 as against Rs. 11,66,700 in the preceding year, and Rs. 10,16,435, the average of the five preceding years, while the total expenditure decreased to Rs. 5,96,506 compared with Rs. 7,10,309 in the previous year, and the quinquennial average Rs. 5,85,631. The result was a net income of Rs. 6,20,442. The dullness of the timber market was the cause of smaller profit in some of the principal divisions, but in the Chaibassa Division the deficit of the previous year was changed to a surplus of Rs. 2,153 owing to the sale of *sál* timber being undertaken for the first time. In the Sundarbans Division the surplus was the highest recorded since 1903-04 and amounted to Rs. 4,28,025, an increase of Rs. 1,81,993, or 74 per cent. as compared with the previous year. Of the twelve Divisions, the Direction and Angul Divisions alone were worked at a loss.

Manufactures and Mines.

Jute.

376. The area under jute decreased from 931,200 acres with an outturn of 2,057,900 in 1907 to 548,700 and 1,026,300 bales in 1908, partly owing to want of moisture and partly, because it paid better to grow rice.

Forty-nine mills were at work at the close of the year giving daily employment to 189,503 persons on an average, an increase of nearly 6,000. The number of looms and spindles in operation increased considerably. The nominal capital employed was Rs. 6,69,05,000 and £2,893,358.

Cotton.

377. At the end of the year there were 12 cotton mills at work, containing 978 looms and 410,797 spindles, as against 12 mills with 781 looms and 410,541 spindles in the previous year. They gave employment to 11,572 persons daily on an average against 11,591 persons in 1907. The nominal capital of the mills was, as in the preceding year, Rs. 1,15,75,000 and £ 200,000.

Tea.

378. In the Darjeeling district 158 plantations had a total area of 51,614 acres under tea, as against 155 plantations and 50,667 acres in the previous year. The outturn increased from 13,228,848 lbs. in 1907 to 14,734,662 lbs. in 1908. The increase was due to more favourable weather and a lesser prevalence of blights.

The Chota Nagpur Division again exhibits a slight decrease both in the area under cultivation and in the quantity of tea produced in the 23 gardens from 2,316 acres and 274,596 lbs. in 1907 to 2,291 acres and 258,928 lbs.

Coal. 379. There were 458 mines working during the year as compared with 372 in 1907. The quantity of coal raised was 11,559,911 tons, which exceeds the figure for the preceding year by 1,566,563 tons and which would have been greater but for a stoppage due to an outbreak of cholera. To the increase in output the Jharia and Burdwan coal-fields contributed over $1\frac{1}{4}$ million tons and 50,000 tons respectively, compared with one million and 200,000 tons in the preceding year. The daily average number of persons employed in the mines was 112,219, an increase of 15,918, or practically the same ratio of increase as in the output of mineral. The coal industry was extremely flourishing until towards the end of 1908, and in consequence inflated prices were quoted for colliery stock. Instead of building up reserves, coal companies, as a rule, still dispose of all their earnings in dividends.

Mica. 380. The output of mica, which, owing to decreased demand, declined from 35,496 cwts. in 1906 to 25,374 cwts. in 1907, again fell heavily, the quantity produced being only 17,857 cwts. valued at over $13\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.

Iron ore. 381. The total amount of iron raised was 54,461 tons, a decrease of 11,063 tons and its value is estimated at Rs. 1,40,523, a fall of Rs. 47,625.

Manganese ore. 382. During the year 20,000 tons of manganese ore, valued at Rs. 3,27,000 were produced. The notable increase from 2,000 tons in 1907 is due to the opening up of a large deposit in Gangpur State.

Indigo. 383. The total area placed under indigo is estimated at 135,300 acres as against 146,800 in the previous year. The decrease in the cultivation of this crop was due to bad season owing to want of moisture. The total outturn was 26,331 factory maunds.

Saltpetre and salt. 384. In the past year 395,104 cwts. of saltpetre valued at Rs. 44,64,636 and 48 tons of salt, valued at Rs. 273, were manufactured.

Sugar. 385. In the Presidency Division, though the sugar-manufacturing industry received some impetus from the *swadeshi* movement, it is not on the whole prosperous. Molasses are manufactured in all districts of the Burdwan and Bhagalpur Divisions, but sugar is produced only in some villages in the district of Birbhum. It is manufactured more or less in all the districts of the Patna and Tirhut Divisions. In the Tirhut Division there was a general falling off both in area and outturn owing to the drought. On account of the failure of the sugar-cane crop the two sugar factories at Marharwa and Siwan in Saran, which were worked by machinery under European management, and several native refineries, were closed. The Bāra, Seerāha and Parsa factories in Champaran continued to work, but of the two concerns in Muzaffarpur, the India Development Co., Ld., is in liquidation and the factory at Ottar was closed. The manufacture of molasses is very limited throughout the Orissa Division.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Miscellaneous Annual Reports of Divisional Commissioners, 1908-1909.]

Presidency. 386. The two paper mills at Titaghar and Kankinara continued to show good results: though the output was the same as in the previous year, enhanced prices caused an increase of Rs. 2,00,000 in value. In addition to the oil-mill at Berhampore, which continued to work satisfactorily, another worked in Nadia. The Bengal Silk Commission continued to exercise a stimulating influence on the silk industry of the Murshidabad district. A flour mill and a factory for making shoes and tanning leather at Maheshgunge in Nadia continued to work and a business on a small scale for manufacturing under-vests, socks and stockings was started at Gangnapur in the Ranaghat subdivision of that district.

Besides the above, other articles manufactured are cart-wheels, ploughs, country-boats, bricks, tiles, pottery, locks, brushes, mats, brass utensils, clay figures, horn-sticks, and cutlery.

387. Amongst the important industries of the Burdwan Division are the factories of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company at Barakar, the Albion Foundry, the Sibpur and Shalimar Ironworks at Howrah, the Bengal Paper Mills at Raniganj, the ironworks and pottery works of Messrs. Burn & Co., lime works at Ondal and their brick and tile works at Durgapur, the numerous jute and cotton mills in Hooghly and Howrah, the rope works in Howrah, the flour and oil mills in Burdwan and Howrah, the bone mills at Bally, the silk filatures in Birbhum and the chemical factories in Hooghly and Burdwan. A new match factory was started in Konnagar. The rope, iron, paper and pottery industries were not prosperous owing to the general depression of trade and to a smaller demand for the articles manufactured. There was an increase in the outturn of bone meal at Bally attributable to the introduction of improved machinery and the extension of business. **Burdwan.**

There was some improvement in the shoe-making industry of the town of Bankura, which is ascribed to the interest in home industries. The shoes produced are reported to be cheap and durable and accordingly they command a large sale on their merits.

Lac, brass, bell-metal utensils, cutlery, mats, tobacco, bricks, tiles, blankets, and chemicals are also manufactured in this Division.

388. Besides indigo, opium, sugar, and cinchona, as well as tea and beer in Darjeeling, the other notable articles of manufacture are *tasar* and *bafta* silks, cotton cloth, lac, blankets, pardas, carpets, gunny bags, tobacco and mats. As in the previous year, the manufacture of tobacco and cigarettes was carried on by the Peninsular Tobacco Company in Monghyr. Two oil-mills worked in the town of Bhagalpur, and the slate concerns in Monghyr continued though with a smaller output. **Bhagalpur.**

389. The usual small industries that provide household utensils, pottery, glassware, coarse cloths, carpets, blankets, stoneware and ornaments for domestic use, continued in the old groove. The carpet industry in Gaya is declining, because the weavers are without capital and refuse to part with the secrets of their craft. In Shahabad the family of carpet weavers is reported to be fast disappearing or to be taking to other professions. **Patna.**

390. Besides the characteristic opium, indigo, saltpetre and sugar industries, other principal articles of manufacture are shellac, bell-metal, brass utensils, carpets, coarse cloths, earthen pots, blankets, grass mats and baskets. The shellac industry is confined to Chapra and is declining. A machine for manufacturing mother-of-pearl buttons has been set up at Mehsi in Champaran. There is an iron foundry at Muzaffarpur. **Tirhut.**

391. Lac is produced throughout the Chota Nagpur Division, but factories of any importance for the manufacture of shellac exist only in the Ranchi, Palamau and Manbhum districts. The number of factories decreased from 136 to 117, the chief fall being in Manbhum, where, owing to want of seasonable rains and the excessive heat of April, the crop was considerably damaged. Coupled with this misfortune the market continued to be depressed in sympathy with trade in America; consequently many factories became bankrupt and were to be closed. The *tasar* cloth industry was also in a depressed condition, and the outturn declined from 34,200 yards in 1907-1908 to 20,000 yards. **Chota Nagpur.**

Guns, swordsticks, knives, axes, spears, scissors, nut-cutters, brass and bell-metal materials, coarse durable cotton cloths and blankets, the product of village Jolahas and Tantis, are also manufactured in this Division. Attempts are being made in Hazaribagh to introduce the fly-shuttle loom. The weaving institution started in Manbhum in 1907-1908 was abolished during the year.

Soapstone is found in parts of the districts of Manbhum, Singhbhum and Ranchi. The value of the stone articles manufactured in pargana Dhalbhum in Singhbhum was Rs. 10,500 against Rs. 16,500 in the preceding year.

Limestone is quarried to a small extent in the Singhbhum and Palamau districts.

392. The principal manufactures are the same as reported in previous years. Cotton and *tasar* cloths are manufactured throughout the Division. The weavers as a class have not taken advantage of the introduction of the fly-shuttle loom to any considerable extent. The Utkal Tannery established under the auspices of the Utkal Conference tans leather and manufactures shoes. A hosiery established in the town of Cuttack is turning out good work. **Orissa.**

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for 1908. Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial.]

Number of factories and system of work.

393. The number of factories at the close of the year was 219 as against 204 at the close of 1907. Of the factories which were brought under the operation of the Act during the year, two started new industries,—the manufacture of gramophone records and the manufacture of cardboad. Four new jute mills were opened during 1908. The total number of jute mills now working in Bengal is 53, and they employ about 200,000 hands. In 94 factories work was carried on by shifts or sets, and in 109 the system of midday stoppage was in force. The average daily number of operatives employed was 301,727, compared with 293,490 in the perceding year.

Inspections.

394. In February 1908 an Assistant to the Special Inspector of Factories was appointed; the Special Inspector of Factories, however, proceeded on leave on the 18th May 1908, and the Assistant Inspector was appointed to officiate for him. From that date one officer was again responsible for the inspection of the factories in this Province, in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. In December 1908, however, sanction was accorded to the appointment of a Special Inspector for the United Provinces, and that officer assumed charge of his duties on the 1st January 1909. Inspections were made in 5 factories once, in 39 factories twice, in 73 factories three times, and in 100 factories four times or more. It is reported that the inspections were generally useful, and that the Managers concerned paid due attention to the recommendations and comments of the inspecting officers.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation.

395. Managers as a rule recognize that in their own interests a strict regard for sanitary conditions is necessary. Latrines of old or defective pattern are generally being replaced by modern structures. Septic tanks have now been installed in 27 out of the 63 jute mills in Bengal. It appears, however, that in many cases a satisfactory effluent is not obtained. The Special Inspector attributes this to lack of supervision and the inadequate supply of water for flushing purposes. This question is receiving the consideration of Government. The ventilation of the jute presses in Cossipore and Chitpur is also a question which received attention during the past year. The Special Inspector is of opinion that a considerable improvement could be effected by the introduction of exhaust fans. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division, on the other hand, considers that the only remedy lies in the demolition of the old buildings and in the construction of new buildings.

Quarters for operatives.

396. The majority of the more important factories have provided well-built quarters for their operatives, as they have found by experience that this is one of the best means of obtaining a sufficient supply of labour. Such quarters are generally kept clean and sanitary.

Water-supply.

397. A plentiful supply of filtered water is maintained in most factories. In the town of Howrah, where the municipal water-supply is cut off during the day, Managers have been instructed to provide storage tanks. Factories which are not connected with any system of water-supply possess, as a rule, either jewel or sand-bed filters.

General health of the operatives.

398. The health of the operatives was generally good throughout the year, and no disease in epidemic form is reported to have broken out. The more important factories possess well-equipped dispensaries under competent medical men, who attend to the employees and supply them with medicine free of charge.

Wages and general condition of the operatives.

399. On the whole the condition of the mill operatives continued prosperous throughout the year. There was no marked change in the rates of wages, which were generally higher than those earned by people of the same class engaged in other pursuits outside the mills. During the latter part of the year the jute mills worked only five days in the week.

Employment of women and children.

400. In consequence of the remarks of the Indian Factory Labour Commission regarding the existence of abuses in the employment of children, inspecting officers were directed to devote special attention to this matter. The Commissioner of Burdwan reports that certain factories in the district of Howrah failed to comply with the rules on the subject. In two factories the

register of children was not properly maintained, and in three cases the age of the children employed had not been duly certified. Steps have been taken to remedy these defects.

401. It is reported that machinery is generally adequately guarded, and that defects indicated by inspecting officers are, as a rule, promptly remedied. In practically all jute mills the calender machines, which were formerly the cause of frequent accidents, have now been fitted with small safety rollers. As was the case in 1907, there are considerable discrepancies in the figures regarding accidents. The Special Inspector states that 831 accidents, of which 65 were fatal, occurred during the year, while the figures furnished by District Officers show 952 accidents of which only 50 ended fatally. The most serious and lamentable was the explosion at the Dum-Dum Ammunition Factory, in which 28 operatives lost their lives. In order that failure to report an accident may be detected as early as possible with a view to instituting a prosecution, the District Magistrates of the 24-Parganas and Howrah have been requested to submit to the Special Inspector of Factories a monthly statement giving brief details of the accidents reported to them. Fencing of machinery and accidents.

402. Three prosecutions were instituted under the Indian Factories Act during 1908 for neglect to post a notice in Form G, for keeping children at work after 8 P.M., and for failure to provide proper fencing to machinery. The prosecutions were successful, and a fine of Rs. 50 was imposed in each case. Prosecutions.

Trade.

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1908-1909.]

403. The returns of the foreign sea-borne trade of the Province for the year 1908-1909 reflect clearly the general depression of trade which characterised the world's market, and at the same time bear testimony to the ill-effects of the failure of the rains in several parts of the Province itself and in those tracts of Northern India from which produce is drawn for export. In the following statement the value of the trade in 1908-1909 is contrasted with its value in the three years immediately preceding and with its average value of the five years ending with 1905-1906:— Foreign trade—Merchandise.

	Average 1901-1902 to 1905-1906.	1906-1907.	1907-1908.	1908-1909.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (Merchandise)	35,76,28,000	42,00,59,544	52,62,88,755	44,23,72,258
Exports (ditto, Indian and Foreign)	58,63,97,000	78,90,35,949	70,06,25,707	66,40,08,216

While the comparison with last year's figures shows a contraction of 9·8 per cent., the result of the year's trade does not compare unfavourably with the average of the five years; and it may be observed that the figures of 1907-1908 were the highest on record, while those of 1906-1907 also constituted in themselves a record. It will further appear from the statement that the imports during the year fell by 16 per cent., while the contraction in exports was 5·2 per cent. The figures represent the trade of the entire Province, *i.e.*, of the chief port of Calcutta and of the subordinate ports of Balasore, Cuttack and Puri. The share of the subordinate ports, composed chiefly of exports of rice, amounted in 1908-1909 to 15·8 lakhs.

404. Imports of treasure were valued at 3,57·38 lakhs as compared with 7,46·69 lakhs in the preceding year, a decline of 52·1 per cent. The exports on the other hand are marked by an advance of 17 per cent., the figures being 49·53 lakhs. No gold or silver was imported by the State during the year. All the treasure imported into and exported from Bengal was received at or sent from Calcutta. Treasure.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles imported.

405. This section of the foreign sea-borne trade forms about 40 per cent. of the total. Its value in 1908-1909 was 44·23 crores as against 52·62 crores in 1907-1908, a decrease of 16 per cent. The value was distributed as follows among the principal articles (*figures are in thousands of rupees*):—

	1907-1908.	1908-1909.
Cotton goods	23,73,10	16,20,81
Metals	5,91,20	5,19,38
Sugar	3,78,04	4,61,61
Machinery and mill work ...	2,65,95	2,91,38
Railway plant and rolling stock ...	3,12,43	2,64,00
Kerosine oil	98,79	1,24,16
Hardware and cutlery ...	1,11,43	96,42
Woollen goods	69,15	77,22
Salt	62,80	67,25
Chemicals and drugs	63,85	56,39
Spices	70,68	57,27
Liquors	59,08	5,696

Cotton goods.

406. The value of cotton goods amounted to 16·20 crores and represented 36·6 per cent. of the value of total imports. Compared with 1907-1908, the result is a heavy deficit of 7·52 crores or 32 per cent., in which all kinds of cotton manufactures participated. The reaction in the trade which followed after five years of continued prosperity was due chiefly to over-production in the European cotton industry, and to bad harvests with consequent high prices of food grains. Imports of twist and yarn amounted to 9·36 million lbs. valued at 77·94 lakhs, and exhibit a decrease of 21 per cent. in quantity and 29 per cent. in value. Piece-goods aggregated 978·14 million yards and were valued at 14·66 crores. These figures represent a fall of 27 per cent. in quantity, 32 per cent. in value and 7 per cent. in specific value. The contraction was particularly marked in greys (22 per cent.) and whites (47 per cent.), of both of which lines heavy stocks had accumulated in the warehouses at the end of 1907-1908. Other cotton fabrics fell from 95·76 lakhs to 76·06 lakhs, as a result of the heavy carry-over of the previous year. Of the entire trade in cotton goods, 94·9 per cent. was derived from the United Kingdom, as against 95·7 per cent. in 1907-1908, while Japan with 1·4 per cent., secured second place.

Metals and manufactures of metals.

407. The value of the year's imports amounted to 519·38 lakhs, a decline of 12 per cent. Iron, wrought and unwrought, is marked by a decline of 17 per cent., the drop being most noticeable under galvanised sheets and ridging. Steel was imported in larger quantities, but the total value receded by 8 per cent., owing to a drop in prices. The improvement occurred chiefly under bars, beams and pillars, and this fact points to increased activity in building operations. Imports of copper, unwrought, declined in spite of increased production and lower prices, but copper, wrought, was received in larger quantities. Brass, wrought, fell from 4·87 lakhs to 2·27 lakhs, the reaction being the natural result of the heavy importation in the previous year. The other metals do not call for special notice.

Sugar.

408. Sugar represents about 10·4 per cent. of the total value of goods imported, and it has maintained for a series of years its position as the third largest single article of import. Excluding confectionery, the quantity imported was 5,647,051 cwts. with a value of 458·03 lakhs, an increase of 10 per cent. in quantity, but of 23 per cent. in value as a result of the prevalence throughout the year of a higher level of prices. Java continued to strengthen its position as the leading supplier. A certain amount of interest attaches also to the circumstance that Java and Mauritius contributed jointly 95·3 per cent. of the total, as it shows that in spite of India being the largest single producer of cane-sugar Bengal alone needs such an enormous quantity of external cane-sugar. Austria-Hungary monopolised the beet-root market.

Machinery and mill work.

409. Imports under this head advanced from 2·66 crores to 2·91 crores or by 9 per cent. Textile machinery for jute mills expanded from 95·25 lakhs to 124·5 lakhs, or 31 per cent. The opening of new collieries was responsible

for the increase from 17⅓ lakhs to 21¼ lakhs under mining machinery. The United Kingdom sent nearly 97 per cent. of the total imports.

Railway plant and rolling stock.

410. Imports on private accounts contracted from 312·43 lakhs to 264 lakhs, or by 15 per cent., but the aggregate of private and State imports shows a decline from 421 lakhs to 387 lakhs, or 8 per cent. only. Of the total imports, the United Kingdom sent 98 per cent.

Kerosine oil.

411. The total importation of foreign kerosine oil was 33·65 million gallons with a declared value of 124·16 lakhs, an increase of 17·5 per cent. in volume and 25·7 per cent. in value. Of the quantity received, 25 million gallons were brought in bulk and 8·6 million gallons in cases. There was no revival in the imports of Russian oil. The United States supplied some 50·7 per cent., and there was a considerable set back in the imports from Roumania.

Hardware and cutlery.

412. Hardware and cutlery exhibits a decline of 13 per cent., the imports being valued at 96·42 lakhs. Of the items comprised in this class, agricultural implements receded from 9·68 lakhs to 7·24 lakhs. Enamelled ironware contracted from 5·3 lakhs to 3·5 lakhs, from which it would seem that the common people have not been slow to take advantage of the lower prices of wrought copper to return to their distinctive domestic utensils. Arrivals of cutlery declined from 6·3 lakhs to 5·6 lakhs.

Woollen goods.

413. The imports of woollen goods expanded from 69·15 lakhs to 77·22 lakhs. The improvement is evidence of the buyers' response to the lower prices which prevailed throughout the year. The increase took place mainly in shawls, the imports of which rose from 22·04 lakhs to 33·69 lakhs. Woollen hosiery also showed a small advance, but woollen piece-goods declined by 1·65 lakhs or 5 per cent., the decrease taking place chiefly in the finer qualities of meltons and flannels. The very extensive imports of shawls, in which line Germany predominates, gave that country the lead in this class over the United Kingdom, the relative shares of the two countries being 50 and 44 per cent. as against 41 and 53 per cent. in the previous year.

Salt.

414. The value of the imports of foreign salt amounted to 67·25 lakhs, compared with 62·81 lakhs in 1907-1908. It is understood, however, that the larger consignments were mainly due to opportunities for cheaper freights; for although there was a small rise of 17,775 tons in actual consumption stocks increased by 53,142 tons. Imports of Liverpool salt amounted to 180,104 tons, of Spanish salt to 110,590 tons and of salt from Red Sea ports and Aden to 156,671 tons. Spanish salt continued to be popular owing to its cheapness. Salt from the Red Sea and Aden also did well, but removals of Liverpool salt were relatively poor.

Chemicals, drugs and medicines.

415. The value of imports under this class amounted to 56·4 lakhs as against 63·8 lakhs in the previous year. Under chemicals, it is interesting to note the advance in imports of bleaching materials from 3·06 lakhs to 3·79 lakhs. Imports of drugs and medicines aggregated 27·1 lakhs, a decline of 13·2 per cent.; the drop was, however, one in value only and was induced mainly by the great fall in prices of camphor and quinine. Patent medicines declined from 8·45 lakhs to 7·28 lakhs.

Tobacco.

416. The imports of tobacco amounted to 2·26 million lbs. and had a value of 32·41 lakhs, compared with 2·57 million lbs. with a value of 36·64 lakhs in 1907-1908. The imports of cigarettes, which constitute the bulk of the trade in tobacco, manufactured, were smaller than those of 1907-1908 by 4·72 lakhs or 17 per cent. The contraction took place chiefly in the lower brands and this circumstance, combined with the larger imports of leaf tobacco, may be taken as pointing to increased activity in indigenous cigarette-making.

Spices.

417. The total quantity of spices expanded from 72·87 million lbs. to 76 million lbs., but the value receded from 70·68 lakhs to 57·27 lakhs. Betelnuts and pepper, chiefly from the Straits Settlements, are the two premier items in this class. The imports of betelnut dropped by ·59 million lbs. or 1 per cent., but the value fell from 60·48 lakhs to 40·34 lakhs as a result of the drop in prices, while the importation of pepper trebled itself during the year, the figures being 6·41 million lbs. valued at 13·04 lakhs.

Liquors.

418. The total trade in liquors decreased in volume by 120,383 gallons or 7 per cent. and in value by 2·21 lakhs or 4 per cent. Imports of ale, beer and porter fell by 77,045 gallons or 8 per cent. Arrivals of spirits amounted to 555,186 gallons and were valued at 33·98 lakhs, a decline of 7 per cent. in

quantity and 5 per cent. in value. The two special features of the year were the importation of inferior brands of whisky to compete with factitious spirits prepared from white rectified spirits, and the displacement of German spirits for methylation by cheap Java arrack. The trade in wines was marked by a net decrease of 2,462 gallons or 2·4 per cent.

Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.

419. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal contributing countries in the import trade of Calcutta :—

	1907-1908. Rs.	1908-1909. Rs.	1907-1908. Per cent.	1908-1909. Per cent.
Total imports ...	52,62,88,755	44,23,72,258	100	100
United Kingdom ...	39,25,51,302	30,63,45,796	74·6	69·2
Java	3,33,06,477	4,12,62,274	6·3	9·3
Belgium	1,78,27,156	1,52,63,542	3·4	3·5
Germany	1,76,21,672	1,48,58,382	3·3	3 3
United States ...	1,18,21,349	1,33,36,463	2·2	3·0
Austria-Hungary ...	52,90,316	74,39,195	1·0	1·7

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles exported.

420. The export trade in merchandise during 1908-1909 formed about 60 per cent. of the sum of imports and exports. Its value was 66·4 crores of rupees as compared with 70·06 crores in the previous year, the decline being thus one of 5·2 per cent. The principal articles in the export trade and their values are given in the following statement in the order of their importance (*figures are in thousands of rupees*) :—

	1907-1908.	1907-1908.	1908-1909.	1908-1909.
Jute, raw ...	15,70,84	33,92,55	16,81,91	32,50,77
„ manufactured ...	18,21,71		15,68,86	
Tea	.....	7,67,04	.....	7,47,58
Hides and skins ...	.....	5,56,49	.....	6,81,28
Opium	.....	6,38,86	.....	6,29,78
Lac	.....	3,98,22	.....	2,76,53
Grain and pulse ...	.....	2,40,90	.....	2,64,94
Oil seeds	.....	3,95,61	.....	2,46,96
Cotton, raw	.....	88,33	.....	73,94
Coal and Coke ...	.....	58,92	.....	50,47
Indigo	.....	38,62	.....	38,24
Silk, raw	.....	46,95	.....	37,99

Jute, raw and manufactured.

421. The shipments of raw jute amounted to 15·8 million cwts. and were valued at 16·82 crores, an advance of 25·4 per cent. in quantity but only of 7 per cent. in value. Acting on the unfavourable crop forecasts and on a mistaken estimate of the previous season's carry-over, both mills and shippers bought freely at the beginning and prices remained high. The outturn was, however, much above the normal, and as fresh supplies poured in from the districts, prices broke and from December the market continued weak. In all 8,430,542 bales were brought into Calcutta during the year as against 7,631,005 in 1907-1908. The net loss in specific value was one of 14·6 per cent. Notwithstanding short-time adopted by some of the mills, the consumption in local mills rose from 3,658,444 in 1907-1908 to 3,981,149 bales in 1908-1909. The United Kingdom, Germany and the United States of America (the three principal importers of the fibre) took larger quantities in 1908-1909, their shares being 35, 21·8 and 18·8 per cent., respectively, of the total.

As regards jute manufactures, the quantity of gunny bags exported increased by 8,512,778 in number or 3 per cent., but the value fell by Rs. 67·95 lakhs or 8 per cent. Shipments of gunny cloth receded by 19,975,443 yards, or 2·5 per cent., and in value by Rs. 180·03 lakhs, or 18·6 per cent. The United States of America, the leading customer in this line, took in 1908-1909 some 21 per cent. less, while the Argentine Republic, which is the second largest buyer of jute fabrics, took 7 per cent. less than in 1907-1908.

Tea.

422. Exports of tea during the year advanced from 167·78 million lbs. valued at Rs. 767·04 lakhs to 169·9 million lbs. with a declared value of 747·58 lakhs. There was thus an advance of 1·3 per cent. in quantity; but the value receded by 2·5 per cent. The noticeable feature of the year was the decline in the

prices of low grade teas without deflection in the higher grades. The drop in prices secured for the Indian low grade teas predominance in that particular section of the market, and China was not able to do so well as in the previous year. Shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 123 million lbs. with a declared value of 545·8 lakhs and show an increase of 3 and 0·1 per cent., respectively, over the previous year's figures. Russia continued to hold its place as the second best customer, taking nearly 11 per cent. In spite of the withdrawal of the rebate allowed in 1907-1908 on arrivals into the country *viâ* the Trans-Siberian Railway, the quantity of tea shipped to Vladivostok rose to 9·7 million lbs., an increase of 34 per cent.

Opium.

423. The contraction in the exports of opium continued. Shipments in 1908-1909 totalled 44,970 chests valued at Rs. 629·78 lakhs and were smaller than those of the preceding year by 5 per cent. in quantity, but in value only by 1·4 per cent. owing to a rise in prices. Under the policy of the Government of India, the number of chests to be offered for sale in 1908 was fixed at 46,800 chests. The average price realised at Calcutta sales was Rs. 1,3c4 per chest as against 1,350 in the preceding year.

Hides and skins.

424. The trade in hides and skins recovered from the depresssion of 1907-1908 and exports rose to 681·27 lakhs, the increase being one of 22 per cent. Prices were low at the commencement of the year, but they rose steadily during the year and good qualities commanded high rates. As in past years, Germany and the United States were the chief buyers. The demand from the latter country, which had been relatively small in 1907-1908 owing to the depression resulting from the financial crisis, re-assumed its normal tone and was responsible to a large extent for the heavy shipments of the year.

Lac.

425. The lac crop in 1908 was the largest on record, and had the demand emanating from the industries with which lac is associated, been sustained, a very profitable trade would have been done. As it was, 1,222 tons in excess of the 17,644 tons shipped in 1907-1908 went forward, but the total value is marked by a decrease of 30 per cent. due to the heavy fall of 35·4 per cent. in prices. The United States took 41·4 per cent., while the United Kingdom took 25· per cent.

Grain and pulse.

426. Exports of grain and pulse aggregated 3·48 million cwts. with the declared value of Rs. 264·94 lakhs, and showed a small improvement of 8 per cent. in quantity and 10 per cent. in value. The two principal cereals of the export trade are rice and wheat. The rice crop in Bengal was a poor one, and against the exports of 3·2 million cwts. the Province had to import from Burma for its own consumption $7\frac{1}{2}$ million cwts. The average export price of rice was Rs. 7·73 per cwt. The failure of the rains in 1907-1908 had adversely affected the wheat crop and, as a result, exports of wheat dropped from 126,635 cwts. to 14,755 cwts., a fall of 88·3 per cent. The trade in other cereals is not deserving of separate mention. The exports of pulses aggregated 231,129 cwts. with the declared value of Rs. 14·94 lakhs.

Oil-seeds.

427. The year was marked by a large contraction in the exports of oil-seeds. The quantity shipped (2,968,799 cwts.) and the declared export value (Rs. 243·8 lakhs) are the smallest on record on the average of the last 8 years. The crops of 1907-1908 had been bad: as a result, only 2·17 million cwts. of linseed were shipped, compared with 3·95 million cwts. in 1907-1908, while exports of rapeseed amounted to 526,601 cwts. or 16 per cent. less than in 1907-1908. Increases are noticed under groundnuts, tilseed and tea seed but the trade in the other seeds is marked by a general decrease.

Cotton, raw.

428. The share of Calcutta in the total exports of cotton, raw, from India was on the average of five years ending 1907 1908, 5·4 per cent. which in 1908-09 fell to 4·1 per cent. only. The year's trade is marked by a heavy decline from 353,815 cwt. (Rs. 88·33 lakhs) to 279 878 cwt. (Rs. 73·94 lakhs), the poor character of the seasons being mainly responsible for the drop. Japan took the largest share (31·6 per cent.).

Coal and coke.

429. Of the total of 571,582 tons of Indian coal exported from India in 1908-1909, Calcutta was the port of shipment for the entire quantity except 272 tons. The year's exports were 21·5 per cent. smaller than those of 1907-1908. Of the $12\frac{3}{4}$ million tons of coal raised in India during the year some 90 per cent. was raised in Bengal. A strong demand for Indian coal, assisted by higher prices, brought about a boom in the coal industry; new mining companies

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came into existence but in their anxiety to avail themselves of the high prices they paid little regard to the class of coalfields taken up. Further, while on the one hand high prices forced production upwards, on the other hand they caused the foreign demand to recede, and the inferior nature of the coal combined to weaken the position of India in the coal market of the world. In India itself, Bombay and Burma showed a preference for imported Australian, Natal and Transvaal coal. Outside India, Japanese coal regained its position in Straits Settlements, while both Australian and Natal coal gained strong ground in Ceylon. The average price of Jharia coal during the year was Rs. 5-7-8 per ton.

Indigo.

430. The year was an unfavourable one to the indigo crop, and as a result of the scarcity of water there were very few fine grades. The export figures of 1907-1908 were the lowest on record, those of 1908-1909 were higher by 6 per cent., the total being 17,699 cwts., but the value remained on the level of the previous year owing to a drop in prices.

Silk, raw.

431. The exports of raw silk are the lowest recorded for a series of years, the decline occurring both in quantity and in value. The fall in the total value would indicate that Indian silk, raw, did not share in the rise in prices in the world's market. As usual, France took the largest share, viz., 69·2 per cent.

Export trade of Calcutta with foreign countries.

432. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal importing countries in the export trade of Calcutta:—

	1907-1908.	1908-1909.	1907-1908.	1908-1909.
	Rs.	Rs.	Percentage.	
Total exports ...	69,92,85,717	66,24,27,310	100	100
United Kingdom ...	17,83,54,896	16,84,62,794	25·5	25·4
United States of America.	11,63,44,211	11,06,90,701	16·6	16·7
Germany ...	8,39,13,012	7,47,64,886	12·	11·3
China ...	5,21,03,295	5,60,21,136	7·4	8·4
France ...	3,80,18,060	3,19,28,597	5·4	4·8
South America ...	3,39,55,209	3,09,60,523	4·8	4·7
Austria-Hungary ...	2,28,80,636	2,08,56,923	3·3	3·1
Italy ...	1,50,89,846	1,69,55,092	2·2	2·6

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan for 1908-1909.]

Frontier trade.

433. The total import and export trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan was 379 lakhs, compared with 366 lakhs in the preceding year, the increase being one of 13 lakhs or 3·56 per cent.

Nepal.

434. The total trade with Nepal rose from 323 lakhs in 1907-1908 to 335 lakhs. The imports did not maintain the expansion noticed last year. Animals increased from 400,421 to 512,859 head, the increment being 112,438 in number, and 21 lakhs in value. Grain and pulse showed a decrease of ·88 million maunds in quantity and 35·37 lakhs in value. There was a very heavy drop (maunds 891,066·37 lakhs) in the imports of rice and paddy, owing to scarcity in the Terai. Hides and skins advanced from 9 lakhs to 12 lakhs, while raw jute imports developed from 19 lakhs to 20 lakhs. The exports were marked by an improvement from 94 lakhs to 107 lakhs. Cotton piece-goods, foreign and Indian, improved by 3 lakhs. The year's transactions in grain and pulse were larger than the previous year's by 3 lakhs or 112 per cent. Other rain crops showed an advance of Rs. 2·45 lakhs. In the department of metals, brass and copper surpassed last year's figure of 7 lakhs by 1 lakh. Tobacco is marked by a considerable advance of 2 lakhs.

Tibet.

435. The total trade with Tibet showed a small improvement. Consignments of skins of sheep and goats exceeded the imports of 1907-1908 by one lakh. Raw wool constitutes the backbone of the Tibetan trade with Bengal; its imports were valued at 7·94 lakhs, and represented about 63·32 per cent. of the value of the entire trade. Two other articles peculiar to Tibetan trade with India are musk and yaks' tails; both show decreases. The staple of exportation is cotton piece-goods (Indian), the trade in which was valued at 3 lakhs. Earthenware and porcelain expanded from Rs. 31,098 to Rs. 1,27,838. The trade in corals continued brisk, the value being

Rs. 1,41,026 in place of Rs. 89,751 in 1907-1908, while precious stones fell off from Rs. 84,000 to Rs. 27,080. Twist and yarn, Indian, showed a decline of 34·11 per cent., while cotton piece-goods, foreign, fell off by about 40 per cent.

436. Imports into Bengal from Sikkim increased by 1·05 lakh, or 12·8 per cent. The articles that mainly contributed to the increase were grain and pulse, spices and animals. Exports to Sikkim from Bengal exhibited a decline of Rs. 35,330, or 4·43 per cent., due mainly to the falling off in the trade in cotton piece-goods and sugar refined. Sikkim.

437. The total trade with Bhutan declined by Rs. 15,208 or 39·31 per cent. Living animals and cotton piece-goods were the principal articles of commerce. There was no trade in corals in the year under report, though in the previous year Bhutan received this article to the value of Rs. 11,505. Bhutan.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1908-1909.]

438. The total value of the coasting trade amounted to Rs. 22,24·72 lakhs, compared with Rs. 21,85·46 lakhs in 1907-1908, the increase being one of 1·8 per cent. The year under review is the sixth successive year characterised by an improvement. Imports are marked by an expansion, having risen from Rs. 12·25 lakhs to Rs. 13·41 lakhs (or by 9·4 per cent.), while exports decreased from Rs. 960·44 lakhs to Rs. 883·64 lakhs (or 8 per cent). The improvement occurred mainly in Indian merchandise, fluctuations in foreign merchandise being of an unimportant character. Some 97 per cent. of the total trade belonged to Calcutta. Coasting trade.

The increase recorded in the imports was brought about mainly by the heavy receipts of paddy and rice from Burma. The other items marked by important increases are groundnuts mainly from Madras, cocoanut oil chiefly from Madras, kerosine oil from Burma and turmeric principally from Madras.

The net improvement in exports resulted from the increase recorded in shipments of coal mainly to Bombay and Sind, of tea to Bombay, of rice to Bombay and Madras and of hides and skins to ports in the Province. Shipments of jute manufactures, tobacco and betelnuts were smaller than in 1907-1908.

IV.—RAIL AND RIVER-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in Bengal in 1908-1909. Tables I and II.]

439. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table:— Rail and river-borne trade.

Year.		Exports from Bengal including Calcutta to other Provinces.	Imports into Bengal including Calcutta from other Provinces.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.
1907-1908	Mds.	94,175,894	66,109,643	29,318,936	185,668,474
	Rs.	42,70,88,581	51,35,67,676	26,48,95,035	37,23,79,830
1908-1909	Mds.	88,974,058	66,777,520	32,725,762	189,044,532
	Rs.	40,76,53,472	48,76,97,111	27,91,88,110	36,42,22,369

Of the total value of the imports into Bengal including Calcutta (Rs. 48 crores), 54 per cent. represent the trade from Eastern Bengal and Assam, 29 per cent. from the United Provinces, 5 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 3 per cent. from the Punjab, and the balance 9 per cent. from other Provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 40 crores) 43 per cent. went to Eastern Bengal and Assam, 35 per cent. to the United Provinces, 8 per cent. to the Punjab, 6 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar, and the remainder 8 per cent. to other provinces.

The principal articles of import into Bengal including Calcutta were from Eastern Bengal and Assam, raw jute (Rs. 16 crores), tea (Rs. 5 crores), and rice (Rs. 1 crore); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, opium (Rs. 2·48 crores), food grains excluding wheat (Rs. 2·2 crores), lac (Rs. 1·84 crores), oil-seeds (Rs. 1·45 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1 crore), wheat (Rs. 1

crore), and cotton, raw (Rs. 74 lakhs); from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton, raw (Rs. 26 lakhs), gram and pulse (Rs. 16 lakhs), wheat (Rs. 13 lakhs), and oil-seeds (Rs. 10 lakhs); and from the Punjab, wheat (Rs. 46 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 30 lakhs), and raw cotton (Rs. 5 lakhs).

The exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to Eastern Bengal and Assam comprised mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 5·9 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 2·4 crores), oils (Rs. 1·7 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·4 crores), rice, husked and unhusked (Rs. 83 lakhs), spices (Rs. 74 lakhs), and salt (Rs. 50 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh cotton manufactures (Rs. 4 crores), rice, husked and unhusked (Rs. 2·11 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·6 crores), metal and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·2 crores), lac (Rs. 87 lakhs), railway plant and rolling-stock (Rs. 87 lakhs) and coal and coke (Rs. 50 lakhs); to the Punjab cotton manufactures (Rs. 95 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 36 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 34 lakhs) and rice (Rs 31 lakhs); and to the Central Provinces and Berar principally rice (Rs. 53 lakhs), railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 25 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 25 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 16 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 14 lakhs), iron and steel (Rs. 13 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Consulting Architect.

440. Owing to the great increase in recent years both in extent and in importance of public buildings in Bengal, Government in 1907 recommended the appointment of a whole-time officer as Consulting Architect. The Secretary of State for India sanctioned the appointment on Rs. 1,000 rising to Rs. 1,250 in 5 years and appointed Mr. Cotman. At the end of the year, however, that officer's health failed, and as he was unable to continue his work, his appointment was terminated and the Secretary of State was requested to appoint another officer.

Reorganisation of the Engineer Establishment.

441. In order to improve the pay of the Engineer Establishment of the Public Works Department, the Government of India made certain changes in organisation: among others, (1) the system of graded promotion in the Executive and Assistant Engineer classes was abolished and a fixed time-scale of promotion was introduced, (2) the cadres of the Imperial and Provincial services were separated in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Service Commission and (3) the grant of exchange compensation allowance was abolished throughout all ranks of the Public Works Department.

Changes in Divisions.

442. A new division called the Electrical Division was formed under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, to deal with the increasing development of electrical work in Calcutta, and the introduction of the system of maintaining departmentally the very large number of electric lights and fans in the public offices and buildings. The Calcutta Special Works Division which was created in 1906 for the construction of supplementary buildings appertaining to Government House was abolished with effect from the 1st May 1908 as the work had all been completed.

Buildings.

[The details of outlay by the Public Works Department will be found in the Finance Accounts, issued annually by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bengal.]

Expenditure.

443. Rupees 1,25,44,028 were spent on works during the year.

The outlay during the year on Imperial and Provincial works amounted to Rs. 13,42,305 and Rs. 62,93,800, respectively. Rs. 3,28,152 were spent on local and contribution works. The balance, Rs. 45,79,771, was expended by the local authorities.

I.—IMPERIAL WORKS.

Civil Works Salt.

444. The work of reclamation of the foreshore of the Sulkea Salt Golah was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 19,644. The realignment of pontoons with gangways and the extension of the scale jetty were carried

out at a total cost of Rs. 15,960. Improvements were made to the new cylindrical pontoons at a cost of Rs. 5,983. A third additional pontoon with two gangways was also put in hand.

445. "Bandels" were constructed for improving the channel in the river Ganges near the Opium Factory at Gulzarbagh. A residence for the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Tehta was under construction at Gaya. Opium.

446. The quarters for Mint Engineers at His Majesty's Mint were completed at a cost of Rs. 1,24,408. Mint.

447. The combined Post and Telegraph Office with Postmaster's quarters at Dhanbaid was nearly completed. Additions were made to the combined Post and Telegraph Office building at Daltonganj. Post and Telegraph Offices.

448. To remove the inconvenience caused by the insufficient storage of unfiltered water in the Imperial Secretariat Buildings, reservoirs of greater capacity were constructed at a cost of Rs. 9,992. Eighty-two fans were installed in the clerks' rooms at a cost of Rs. 10,910. Secretariat Buildings.

The new Imperial Secretariat Building in Council House Street, Calcutta, for the accommodation of the Commerce and Industry Department of the Government of India, was started in December last and a portion of the foundation was completed during the year.

449. Some structural alterations and improvements were carried out to the Paper Currency Office Buildings at 26, Mangoe Lane. Sixty-six electric lights and 35 fans were also put up at a cost of Rs. 6,577, while in the Exchange Hall, 49 electric lights and 30 fans were installed at a cost of Rs. 7,501. Currency Office.

450. An office and quarters for the Superintendent, Hastings House, Alipore, and a tent godown, with some additions to servants' quarters, were constructed during the year. The construction of the compound wall on the east and south sides of Hastings House was in progress. Hastings House.

451. At Dhanbaid the quarters for the Chief Inspector of Mines were completed and occupied, the main building of his office was nearly completed, and the servants' quarters, stables and godown were well in hand. The quarters for the office staff of the Mines Department were nearly completed. Land was acquired for the quarters and office of the Inspector of Mines at Asansol and the foundations of the building were partly excavated and preliminary arrangements made for starting the work. Mines.

452. All the buildings in connection with the Agricultural Research Institute and College at Pusa and the roads to Phipps' Laboratory were completed. Fittings to all the Experts' laboratories were supplied. Phipps' Laboratory was completed, except the carving of stone work on the face of the building. The electric and gas installations were completed. Agricultural.

453. The work of making the billiard room double-storied, and the construction of a verandah on the east side of the Residency building in Nepal was commenced. Nepal Residency.

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

454. Additions and alterations in the Magistrate's Court, Howrah, were completed at a cost of Rs. 9,122 and the Deputy Magistrates' Courts at the same station at a cost of Rs. 25,277. The combined office for the Sub-Registrar, the Bench Magistrate and the Deputy Collector at Gumla (Ranchi) and the additions and alterations to the Collector's Court buildings at Cuttack were finished. Magistrates' and Collectors' Courts.

455. Additional electric fans and lights in the Civil Court buildings, Alipore, were supplied at a cost of Rs. 10,500. A verandah was constructed on three sides of the Civil Courts at Howrah at a total cost of Rs. 19,685. The work of providing additional accommodation for the Civil Courts and offices at Jessore was in progress. The new Sessions Courts at Monghyr and Puri were completed and also additions in the Judge's Court at Krishnagar. Judges' Courts.

At Arrah the construction of the new Civil Court building was well in hand, while a copyists' room at the District Judge's Court at Chapra and the Civil Court building and record-room for the District Judge of Darbhanga were completed.

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Munsifs' Courts.

456. The treble Munsifi at Narail was completed at a cost of Rs. 41,773 and the Munsif's Court at Bongong was extended at a cost of Rs. 6,351. Additions and alterations to the Chatra (Hazaribagh) Munsifi were carried out. The construction of a treble Munsifi at Kushtia was well advanced. The additions to the existing treble Munsifi at Tumluk were finished at a cost of Rs. 9,095. The construction of a double Munsif's Court at Samastipur was completed and a double Munsifi at Madhubani and a single Munsifi at Sewan were taken in hand and nearly completed.

Munsifs' residences.

457. The construction of Munsifs' residences at Narail, Jhenida and Magura was in progress, and completed at Bolepur (Birbhum), at Khatra (Bankura) and at Araria (Purnea), while materials were collected at Banka in the Bhagalpur district.

Subdivisional Courts.

458. The combined Subdivisional Court and Munsifi at Khunti in the district of Ranchi was completed, the extension of the Subdivisional Court building at Araria in the Purnea district was in progress, additions and alterations to provide extra accommodation to the Subdivisional Court building at Banka were completed, as were also the construction of a new khasmahal office and additions and alterations to the Subdivisional Court at Khurda in Orissa, the extension of the Subdivisional Court at Sewan and additions and alterations to the Subdivisional Court at Hajipur.

Subdivisional residences.

459. The reconstruction of the main building and servants' quarters of the subdivisional residence at Magura in the district of Jessore was in progress, and that of the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Phulbani was finished. The second officer's quarters at Diamond Harbour were completed at a cost of Rs. 6,048.

Circuit-house.

460. The Circuit-house at Hazaribagh was nearly completed.

Excise buildings.

461. At the liquor depôt, Burdwan, a godown for the storage of liquor was constructed and the existing godown converted into the Superintendent's office. Apparatus for filtration was provided to the liquor depôt at Balarampur in the Manbhum district. Good progress was made in the construction of liquor depôts and ganja golahs at several stations in the Bhagalpur division, those at Purnea, Kissenganj, Katihar, Madepura and Supaul being completed. Combined ganja golahs and liquor depôts were built at Puri, Khurda and Bhabua. An extension of the liquor godown in the Sambalpur distillery was nearly completed, and pumping plant for a continuous supply of water to the distillery was erected.

Residences for the Local Government.

462. The following works were completed in connection with Chajjubagh House at Bankipore at a total expenditure of Rs. 13,302:—fitting up an oil engine and centrifugal pumps for water supply; filling up a tank near the kitchen; chowkidar's house and bearer's shed, and a godown for surplus furniture.

Residences for Government officials.

463. Special repairs were carried out to the newly acquired residential building for the Collector at Burdwan. Land acquisition proceedings in connection with the residences for civil officers at that station were concluded. The Collector's residence at Monghyr was completed.

A house, known as Mr. Macnaghten's house at Muzaffarpur was purchased from the Darbhanga Raj for Rs. 36,340 as a site for the office and residence of the Commissioner of the Tirhut Division.

High Court.

464. The new extension of the High Court building was completed with some additional works and made over to the Court authorities. It was formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 9th January 1909.

The cloth curtains over the dais in the six small Court-rooms and the Sessions Court, High Court, were replaced by Gothic screens, similar to those in the Chief Justice's room, at a cost of Rs. 6,849.

Jails.

465. At the new Presidency Jail, Alipore, many buildings were completed. The total expenditure on the project, including cost of land and compensation paid to the Calcutta Corporation, was Rs. 15,01,124 up to March 1909. The construction of the 3rd class District Jail at Howrah was completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 83,710. The segregation ward in the Burdwan Jail, and the quarters for the Jailor, Assistant Jailor and Civil Hospital Assistant attached to the Suri Jail, were completed. In the Ranchi Jail, the fitting and fixing of a cage latrine in the main ward and thorough repairs and additions and improvements were carried out. Land was acquired for the extension of

the Purulia Jail. In the Daltonganj Jail, a set of quarters for the Jailor was constructed and a temporary ward is now under construction. The construction of a new hospital in the Purnea Jail was in progress. The work of extending the compound wall of the jail was completed. At Cuttack, the extension to the jail buildings by the incorporation of the abandoned lunatic asylum was nearly completed. The additions and alterations to the Puri Jail, comprising the construction of quarters for the Assistant Jailor, Head Warder and other works, were completed, and also the enclosure wall of the Khulna Jail. Four blocks of the sleeping ward of the Central Jail at Midnapore were constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,10,803. Additions and alterations were carried out in the Bankipore Jail. The leper ward in the Muzaffarpur Jail was completed. Bricks were collected for rebuilding the outer walls of the Chapra Jail. Subsidiary jails were constructed at Tumluk and Khunti. Additions and alterations were carried out in the subsidiary jails at Asansol and Gumla. The subsidiary jail at Diamond Harbour was enlarged at a cost of Rs. 15,305.

466. A cattle pound, a darwan's room and munshi's room were constructed at the Taltollah thana at a total cost of Rs. 7,118 on land acquired at a cost of Rs. 4,500. Land was acquired for the construction of a new thana building at Garden Reach at a cost of Rs. 35,649. Police.

Double-storied quarters were constructed for a European Inspector and a European Sergeant at Tollygunge at a cost of Rs. 17,396. The construction of a new police building at Lillooah was in progress. The property known as Ross Distillery, Howrah, was acquired at a cost of Rs. 2,55,287 to provide accommodation for the District Reserve Police. Police outposts at Bandaghat and Bataitollah in the Howrah district were completed. The Duff College building in Nimtolla Ghat Street, Calcutta, was acquired at a cost of Rs. 2,00,000, for the head-quarters of the Northern Police Division. The residence of the Assistant Inspector-General of the Railway Police at 35, Strand Road, Howrah, was provided with electric lights and fans. An officer's retiring room and a bathing platform were provided in the Police Training College at Doranda (Ranchi). Additions and alterations were made to the hospital building attached to the College and to Bungalow No. 4. Improvements to Bungalow No. 8 were also made. The police building at Khunti was completed. Three sets of quarters for the Sub-Inspectors of Police at Dhanbaid were constructed. The construction of a new police hospital at Puri was in progress. Quarters for Armed Police Inspectors were constructed at Balasore and Angul, and a European Sergeant's quarters at the latter place. The special repairs to the north-west front range barrack at Berhampore were completed at an expenditure of Rs. 10,627 for the accommodation of the officers of the Police Training school.

467. Land was acquired for the extension of the Presidency College, Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 3,29,573. The work of furnishing the new extension of the Chemical Laboratory was nearly finished. Two temporary sheds for holding practical classes in Chemistry, Physiology and Geology were completed at a cost of Rs. 23,860. Land was acquired for the extension of the Bethune College, Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 34,577. Additions and alterations were made to the Reformatory School and hospital buildings at Hazaribagh and materials were collected for further additions and alterations to the school and for the improvement of the water-supply. The new Zilla School building, Chaibassa, was constructed up to roof level. The foundation stone of the Arts College at Ranchi was laid by the late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Andrew Fraser, in September 1908. The residence of the Principal of the Weaving School at Serampore was thoroughly repaired. Certain additions and alterations in the Hooghly College Laboratory and practical room were made. The whole roof of the Suri Zilla School building was renewed. The greater portion of the work in connection with the Chapel, Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong, was completed and the masonry tank for the supply of water for bathing and drinking purposes at the school was nearly finished. Land was acquired for a play-ground for the boys of the Cuttack Ravenshaw Collegiate School at a total cost of Rs. 16,584. The subsidiary buildings of the Eden Hindu Hostel, Calcutta, were added to and altered at a cost of Rs. 11,681. A new boarding-house for the students of the Puri Zilla School was under construction, the main Educational.

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building was practically completed and the Head Master's (Hostel Superintendent's) quarters were nearly completed. The construction of a hostel in connection with the Midnapore College was in progress, as well as the Principal's and Professors' quarters, Patna College. Two additional rooms with a connecting verandah to the Science Laboratory in the Krishnaghar College were completed at a cost of Rs. 8,885.

Medical.

468. The Woodburn Ward in the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, was completed at a total cost of Rs. 3,09,779. A further sum of Rs. 37,507 was spent on electric lights and fans, pumps and lifts. Certain additional works were also done at a cost of Rs. 9,047. An electric lift was provided in the Eden Hospital, Calcutta, at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,381, and 193 electric lights were installed in the building at a total expenditure of Rs. 7,015.

The construction of the 4th block and the Surgical Block in the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, was in progress. The Isolation Block and the Anatomical Block were completed at a cost of Rs. 70,152 and Rs. 52,448, respectively. The electric lift in the main block was completed at a cost of Rs. 34,699. A sum of Rs. 21,339 was spent on the acquisition of land for the Surgical ward of the Sambhu Nath Pandit's Hospital, Bhowanipur. At the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, two double-storied wards were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,45,564. Land was acquired for the extension of the hospital. The construction of quarters for nurses was commenced. The foundations of the operation room in the Charitable Dispensary, Hazaribagh, were completed. Additions and alterations were carried out in the Dispensary building at Jagannathpur. At Dhanbaid, the dispensary building and Assistant Surgeon's quarters were completed, and the additional dispensary buildings required were well in hand. An operation room was constructed in the dispensary at Naxalbari in the Darjeeling District, and an operation room at the Dumka Dispensary was nearly completed. A 3rd class mortuary was constructed at Khunti.

Miscellaneous.

469. At the Veterinary College, Belgachia, the large tank near the fly-proof boxes at the north-east corner of the compound was filled up at a cost of Rs. 20,462. The low portion of the compound round the menials' quarters was raised and also the boundary wall on the east and south side. Thorough repairs were executed to the Club House at Bhagalpur, and repairs to the subsidiary buildings were in progress. The masonry superstructure and the roofing of the Agricultural College, Sabour, were completed; work on the domes was in progress; the hostels with their subsidiary buildings were under construction; the clerks' quarters were nearly completed; the three residences for Indian professors were completed; and the quarters for European professors were nearly finished. Rupees 6,477 were spent on the acquisition of land for the extension of the Government Experimental Farm at Bidyadharpur, Cuttack. Work on the construction of farm buildings at Chinsura was well in hand. The construction of the new Settlement Office at Banki was completed. The following new works were undertaken and completed:—construction of quarters for three overseers' fieldmen at the experimental farm, Bankipore, and filling up hollows, levelling the ground and spreading earth on the land acquired for improving the sanitary condition of Bankipore. The following works, which were continued from the previous year, were completed:—the construction of an office and inspection bungalow at the agricultural station at Bankipore, and the acquisition of the land and house at Gaya known as the Manager's House from the 9-annas Tikari Raj.

Contribution works.

470. The following works were also completed during the year:—at the Medical College, Calcutta—three blocks for Indian paying-patients at a cost of Rs. 76,503 and an electrical annexe to Chuni Lal Seal's Dispensary at a cost of Rs. 17,786; at the Victoria Zenana Hospital, Calcutta—a covered passage and outhouses, a compound wall round the newly-acquired land for the extension of the hospital, new quarters for nurses, a Maternity Block, Cottage Ward, and drainage and water-supply at a cost of Rs. 1,33,339; and at the Howrah General Hospital—improvements to the hospital, the Debi Prosad Ward and sanitary fittings at a cost of Rs. 73,739. Additions and alterations to the Pauper Ward in the Charitable Dispensary, Darjeeling, were taken in hand and nearly completed.

471. An estimate amounting to Rs. 20,732 was sanctioned for erecting a monument at Plassey. All the works except the roadway and railing round the monument were completed at a cost of Rs. 17,212. Monuments and antiquities.

Communications.

472. As approach roads to Calcutta, improvements were undertaken on a portion of the Diamond Harbour road, and of the Budge-Budge road. 24-Parganas.

473. For the improvement of the Khunti-Kolunga road, the sections from Khunti to Torpa 18 miles, Torpa to Basia 18 miles and Basia to Biru 27 miles, were surveyed and projects prepared. Ranchi.

Protective works were undertaken, and repair of the flood damages to the Hesadih, and the Nawadih bridges in miles 45 and 46 on the 1st section of the Ranchi-Purulia road.

474. Regrading, re-aligning, and construction of culverts on the Bandgaon-Nakti section of the Ranchi-Chaibassa road were completed to the 48th mile. The two portions of the Ranchi-Chaibassa road from Bandgaon to Hesadih and from Tebo to Nakti were metalled, and the Sanjai bridge on the 13th mile repaired. Singhbhum.

475. The 11th mile of the Bagoda-Hazaribagh road was improved, and portions of the Ranchi-Hazaribagh, Bagoda-Hazaribagh and Burhi-Hazaribagh roads were remetalled. Hazaribagh.

476. The Vishnupur Inspection bungalow at the 50th mile of the Raniganj-Midnapore road was enlarged as the number of travellers has grown since the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Bankura.

477. The first section of the New High Level Tista Valley road extending from the 13th to the 20th mile was nearly finished, and the second section from the 21st to the 29th mile was completed. Darjeeling.

The construction of a 100-feet span girder bridge over the Chamta in the 3rd mile of the Matigara-Kurseong road, commenced last year, was completed.

The new dâk bungalow and stable at Siliguri were completed and also the reconstruction of bridge No. 6 in the 8th mile of the Siliguri-Sevoke road, in progress during 1907-1908.

478. The work of improvement of the 3rd or Khalsa section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road from the western boundary of the Rairakhol State to Sambalpur, 25½ miles in length, so as to raise it to a class IA road, was continued. Bridge construction in the 19th and 21st miles was undertaken before the monsoon, but heavy rainfall caused some damage. Inspection bungalows at Mandhar and Jujumura were in progress. Sambalpur.

The renewal of the roadway of the Kasinath Bridge over the Haradjore Nalla in the outskirts of the Sambalpur town, in progress last year, was completed.

An inspection bungalow was built at Jharsuguda near the Bengal-Nagpur Railway station, and one at Sohella on the Raipur-Sambalpur road was in progress.

The construction of the second section of the Bargarh-Balangir road, *i.e.*, from Barpali to Sonepur (border about 7½ miles), begun last year, was in progress, and an inspection bungalow was under construction at Barpali.

The improvement of the Sambalpur-Sonepur road, from Sambalpur to Sonepur boundary, was in progress, and two inspection bungalows, one at Dhama on the 15th mile and the other at Sahaspur on the 9th mile of the road, were under construction.

479. The first section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road was improved. Angul.

An inspection bungalow at Bamur on the Cuttack-Sambalpur road is approaching completion, and another at Nakchi is under construction, a first class inspection bungalow at Phulbani is approaching completion, three inspection bungalows were completed at Bydessur, Kutri and Dholepur on the Cuttack Sonepur road, and a bungalow at Chamundia was under construction.

480. To facilitate traffic, two short lengths of road were constructed, one from the starting point of the Puri road to the commencement of the Kuakhai-Delta road, and the other from the approach of the Ganjam road to the bank of the Kuakhai river. Cuttack.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The two rest sheds for subordinates on the Cuttack-Ganjam road at Chandka and Jankia, at 11th and 40½ miles, in progress last year, were completed.

The improvement of the 3rd section of the Cuttack-Dhenkanal-Angul road by the construction of additional culverts was almost completed and special repairs were executed to the Orissa Trunk Road, section Mahanadi to Kharsua.

Balasore.

481. An old suspension bridge, 100 feet long, over the Gurikhal Nulla on the 23rd mile of the Orissa Trunk Road north of Balasore collapsed in December 1907 owing to the failure of its left abutment. Preliminary operations for constructing a new bridge were completed and an estimate sanctioned.

Arboriculture.

482. Planting and maintenance of roadside trees were continued in the Darjeeling Division. Nurseries were established on the Grand Trunk Road in Burdwan; at Bamnia, on the Ranchi-Purulia road; at Purulia, Chirkunda, Barowa and Topechanchi on the Grand Trunk Road.

Nurseries were started in the 4th, 6th and 9th miles of the Sambalpur-Sonepur road and gabions supplied. The old nursery in the 5th mile of the Sambalpur-Cuttack road was extended and a few trees planted in the 5th mile. A nursery was opened in the 3rd mile of Sambalpur-Lapanga road and some trees planted on the 2nd and 3rd miles. On the Bargarh-Bolangir road nurseries were opened. Trees planted on the sides of roads in the Sambalpur Division during 1907-1908 were maintained.

In the Akhayapada-Jajpur Division more was done towards maintaining old plantations and nurseries than towards planting new trees. In the Mahanadi Division, nurseries on the Ganjam road were maintained and banyan trees planted in the 39th, 40th, 52nd, 70th and 73rd miles. Nurseries have been started at Balianta, Sardaipur, Pipli and Jaypur on the Puri road.

Miscellaneous improvement.

483. A telephone exchange was established in Muzaffarpur for the convenience of Government offices and official residences.

Railways.

Control.

484. There are no railways under the direct administration of the Government of Bengal. A few small lines, of merely local importance, are subject to a certain measure of control by this Government. The more important lines are under the control of the Railway Board.

Additions to mileage.

485. During the year the open mileage was increased as follows:—

	Miles.
Standard gauge—(5′-6″)	Nil.
Metre gauge—(3′-3⅜″) Forbesganj to Jagbani ...	7½
Katihar-Godagari extension (within Bengal) ...	16¾
2′-6″ gauge—	
Basirhat-Chingrihat extension—	8½
2′-0″ gauge—	
Autpur-Champadanga section of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway	6¾

With these additions the open mileage in the Province on the 1st April 1909 was as follows:—

	Miles.
Standard gauge	...2,897·50
Metre gauge	...1,127·80
2′-6″ gauge	... 244·80
2′-0″ gauge	... 114·68

Lines under construction or sanctioned for construction.

486. (*a*) The following lines are under construction or sanctioned for construction:—

	Miles.
Bengal-Nagpur (5′-6″)—	
Bhojudih to Parthadihi	2·28
Branch line near Kanodih	1·97
Sini to Gurmaishini	44·00

	Miles.
East Indian Railway—	
Bhagulpur to Bausi	31·04
Borachak to Sodepur	4·50
Ghat line to Dhulian	1·06
Hooghly *via* Katwa to Barharwa	164·34
Toposi to Baraboni	9·31
Eastern Bengal State Railway (3′-3⅜″)—	
Forbesganj to the Nepal Frontier	7·40
Katihar to Godagari (portion within Bengal) ...	16·75
Tirhoot State Railway (3′-3⅜″)—	
Bhagulpur Kutchery to Bhagulpur	1·07
Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway (2′-6″)—	
Basirhat to Hosanabad	8·50
Howrah-Amta Light Railway (2′-0″)—	
Autpur to Champadanga	6·75
Autpur to Rajbulhat	3·50

(*b*) The following new lines of railways have been authorised for construction :—

	Miles.
East Indian Railway (5′-6″)—	
Parthadihi to Prodhun Khunta	9·00
Tirhut State Railway (3′-3⅜″)—	
Partabganj to Bhimnagar	13·44
Bengal and North-Western Railway—	
Chapra-Masrak	26·32
Bakhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway (2′-6″)—	
Bihar to Silao	10·00
Dehri-Rhotas Light Railway (2′-6″)—	
Dehri to Akbarpur	25·00
Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway (2′-6″)—	
Barasat-Basirhat-Pattipukur Extension	16·25

487. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway completed the following surveys for lines on the broad gauge :—(1) From Amda to Gurumaishini, 48 miles, (2) from Kalimati to Gurumaishini, 44½ miles. Surveys completed.

The East Indian Railway completed the final survey of a line from Sainthia *viâ* Kandi to Berhampore, about 40 miles, and the reconnaissance of a section, 12 miles long, of the proposed line from Bokharo to the Ramgarh coalfields, both on the broad gauge.

The Bengal and North-Western Railway have completed a survey of a line from Partabganj to Bhimnagar, 13 miles, on the metre gauge.

488. In the following cases, surveys are either in progress or have been authorised :— Surveys in progress.

By the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—From Mohuda station to the Ramgarh coalfield in the districts of Manbhum and Hazaribagh, a distance of 54 miles on the 5′-6″ gauge.

By the Engineer-in-chief, Lower-Ganges Bridge.—The survey required in connection with the project for the construction of a bridge over the Ganges in the vicinity of Gola was authorised.

By the Bengal-Duars Railway Company.—From Bagrakote to Sevoke, a distance of seven miles on the metre gauge.

By the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company.—(1) From Siliguri to the Tista Bridge, about 46 miles, and (2) from Siliguri to Kishanganj *viâ* Naxalbari, a distance of 64 miles on the 2′-0″ gauge.

489. A proposal for the construction of a tramway or light railway, (2′-6″), under Act III of 1883 from Arrah to Sasaram, a distance Other projects.

of 62 miles, was received from Messrs. Martin & Co. and is now under the consideration of Government.

Important matters dealt with.

490. In reply to an enquiry, the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India was informed that Government will in all cases refer to the Railway Board before proceeding with any application for an order under the Bengal Tramways Act for proposed lines of light railways outside municipal or cantonment limits.

The Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, brought to notice the constant occurrence of irregularities in occupying land for railways, and forwarded draft instructions pointing out the formalities required by law and rule to be observed before land can be entered upon or occupied by railway construction engineers. These draft instructions were approved by the Railway Board.

A headway of 13 feet at ordinary high flood level for the bridge over the Gandak River at Bagaha was proposed by the Agent, Bengal and North-Western Railway, and accepted by this Government, and the adoption of a waterway of 15 spans of 150 feet was sanctioned by the Railway Board.

Orders were issued by the Railway Board laying down the future procedure for acquisition of land for companies' railways in consequence of the abolition of the post of Consulting Engineer.

The question having been raised by the Agent, East Indian Railway, it was decided by the Railway Board that the railways and tramways specified in section 8 of the Bengal Cess Act are not liable to pay road and public works cess.

The Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, declined to approve of the proposal to carry out the earthwork of the Shakarpura-Samastipur and Laheria-Sarai-Singhia-Shakarpura railway projects as famine relief work.

It was decided in communication with the Railway Board to allow the existing terms and conditions of the contract between the Secretary of State and the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway to continue for a further period of ten years, *viz.*, to May 1919.

An indenture, dated the 1st October 1908, was entered into between the Secretary of State for India and the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company for the construction of the Chapra-Masrak extension of the Company's main line.

Railways controlled by the Government of Bengal.

491. The mileage of the railways subject to the control of the Government of Bengal was as follows:—

	Miles.
(1) The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	51·00
(2) The Deoghar Railway	4·79
(3) The Tarkeswar-Mogra Railway	33·27
(4) The Howrah-Amta Railway	43·87
(5) The Howrah-Sheakhala Railway	19·75
(6) The Bakhtiarpur-Bihar Railway	18·50
(7) The Baraset-Basirhat Railway	34·61
Total	205·79

The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway maintains its position as the line earning the largest profits in the Province.

The light railways continue to be successful and yield a good return to the shareholders and to the District Boards that share in the surplus profits.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1908-1909.]

Capital and Revenue account.

492. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1908-09 are exhibited in the following statements so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation. Works which afford protection from

flood or which facilitate drainage are reviewed separately and are not noticed in this report:—

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1908-1909.	Expenditure to end of 1908-1909.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1909.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Protective Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges ...	55,97,499	6,77,692	42,64,527	13,32,972
Indirect „ ...	1,29,835	20,575	1,07,772	22,063
Total ...	57,27,334	6,98,267	43,72,299	13,55,035
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges ...	6,28,92,290	48,603	6,27,88,766	1,03,524
Indirect „ ...	17,66,455	2,284	17,63,193	3,262
Total ...	6,46,58,745	50,887	6,45,51,959	1,06,786
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,65,97,113	4,71,386	1,47,51,288	18,45,825
Indirect „ ...	2,31,045	9,728	2,71,983	(—) 40,938
Total ...	1,68,28,158	4,81,114	1,50,23,271	18,04,887

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct charges.	Indirect charges.	Total working expenses.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works*...	26,19,377	13,82,704	1,07,112	14,89,816	11,29,561
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.	4,91,779	4,09,300	14,883	4,24,183	+67,596
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.	32,228	1,23,827	7,157	1,30,984	(—)98,756
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.	24,809	24,429	...	24,429†	+ 380

* Inclusive of the Dhaka Canal.

† Exclusive of Rs. 3,922 spent on the survey of Protective Irrigation Works in the districts of Darbhanga and Hazaribagh.

493. The classification of the works dealt with below is as follows:— Classification of Irrigation and Navigation Works.

Protective Irrigation Works.—The only works comprised in this class are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals which were sanctioned in the year 1900-1901. The Tribeni Canal is still under construction, while the Dhaka Canal is practically complete. They are purely irrigation works. The sanctioned

revised estimate for the Tribeni Canal is Rs. 51,35,328, but a second revised estimate is now under preparation. The revised estimates for the Dhaka Canal amount to Rs. 6,09,191. The construction estimate of this canal has been closed from 31st March 1908. The schedule of sanctioned works which were either incomplete or not begun on the 1st April 1908, has been sanctioned by the Government of India. The date fixed for the completion of these works is 31st March 1910.

Major Works.—In these are included the Orissa, Midnapore, Sone and Hijili Tidal Canals. The Hijili Tidal Canal is for navigation only, while the other three canals provide for both irrigation and navigation.

Minor Works and Navigation.—This class includes (I) the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, the Madaripur Bhil Route and the Orissa Coast Canal for navigation and the Saran Canals for irrigation; (II) the Nadia Rivers and the Gaighatta and Baxi khal, which are used for navigation only; (III) the Eden Canal which is used partly for irrigation, but mainly to afford a supply of water for drinking and as a measure of sanitation, and the Madhuban (Teur) Canal utilised for irrigation only. Under (II) is also included the Magra Hat Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district which is being carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII (B. C.) of 1895. Capital and Revenue accounts are kept for (I) but not for (III) and Revenue accounts only for (II).

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary which is given for convenience by Circles of Superintendence.

ORISSA CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Orissa Canals.

Capital account.

494. The expenditure (direct charges) charged to the Capital account of the Orissa Canals during the year was Rs. 44,376. The total Capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 2,61,14,676.

During the year the following works were in progress:—

1E Distributary, Jajpur Canal, was completed during the year, but the accounts are not yet closed. The construction of permanent outlets in the High Level Canal, Range I, was approaching completion. The extension of No. 2A Distributary of the Pattamundi Canal, the remodelling of Distributaries Nos. 8K. and $8K_1$, Kendrapara Canal, and extension of $8K_1$ and permanent outlets in the Kendrapara, Gobri, Gobri Extension and Pattamundi Canals were completed, also one-third of the work of raising of the flood bank of the Pattamundi Canal exposed to the floods of the Brahmini River and about two-thirds of the earthwork in connection with remodelling the first reach of the Taldanda Canal. The Tentulipada Distributary, in progress from last year, was completed except for some turfing and payment of land charges. Extension of Nos. 12 Distributary and 13 Distributary, Taldanda Canal, and construction of some minor distributaries from the Machgong Canal were in progress during the year. Twenty-six permanent outlets on the Kendrapara and Taldanda Canal systems were constructed during the year.

Length of canals, etc.

495. The lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year were:—Orissa Canals—canals for irrigation and navigation, $204\frac{3}{4}$ miles; canals for irrigation only, 122 miles; distributaries and minor channels, $1,218\frac{1}{2}$ miles, of which $28\frac{1}{2}$ miles were added during the year; canals for navigation only—Hijili Tidal Canal, 29 miles; Orissa Coast Canal, $129\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Rainfall.

496. The average rainfall at the 13 recording stations on the Orissa Canals was 56·89 inches against 67·75 inches in the previous year. The rainfall was very well distributed for agricultural purposes and the unirrigated lands produced good crops.

Irrigation.

497. The area irrigated was 284,692 acres against 289,506 acres in the preceding year. There has been a net decrease of 1,311 acres in the *kharif*

area caused by the diminution of season leases, counterbalanced by an increase in the long-lease area. The *rabi* area was also less. The large area of *rabi* irrigated in 1907-1908 was due to the destruction of the winter-rice crop by the extraordinary floods of August 1907 and consequent sowing of *rabi* in lands originally occupied by that crop.

The cash realizations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 4,15,273 against the demand of Rs. 4,23,876; Rs. 5,964 were remitted, leaving an outstanding balance of Rs. 2,639. The result is satisfactory.

498. The receipts from the navigation tolls on the Orissa Canals were Rs. 51,702 against Rs. 53,208 in 1907-1908. The tonnage of boats was 261,477 against 261,608 in the preceding year. Navigation receipts.

499. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Orissa Canals during the year were Rs. 5,09,546 and Rs. 4,48,792, respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 60,754 against Rs. 23,506 in the preceding year. Financial results.

500. There was no addition to the Capital outlay during the year, which now stands at Rs. 25,51,641 (direct charges). The total receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 46,055 and Rs. 48,799, respectively, against Rs. 58,703 and Rs. 42,623, respectively, in 1907-1908. The result was a deficit in the net revenue of Rs. 2,744 against a profit of Rs. 16,080 in the preceding year. The decrease in revenue is due to the falling off in traffic owing to the short outturn of the rice crop in the Midnapore and Balasore districts and consequent diminution of export. Hijili Tidal Canal.

Minor Works and Navigation.

501. There was no outlay chargeable to Capital during the year. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounts to Rs. 43,72,462. Ranges III, IVA and IVB of this canal remained open throughout the year. Range V was closed from 10th January to 16th June 1908 for silt clearance, which, together with thorough repairs to inlet and outlet sluices, was completed; the expenditure on silt clearance was Rs. 1,11,434, out of which Rs. 33,701 was expended during the year. The other ranges have silted up considerably; about a lakh of cubic feet were removed by dredging at a cost of Rs. 3,104, and the remainder will be cleared by hand. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 20,859 and Rs. 1,05,123, respectively, against Rs. 24,934 and Rs. 1,35,441, respectively, in the preceding year. The reduction in receipts, which are principally from toll earnings, was mainly due to poor rice crop in the Midnapore and Balasore districts owing to short rainfall in September and October and partly to the closure of Range V of the canal for silt clearance. Orissa Coast Canal.

502. There were no abnormal floods during the year in any of the rivers crossed by the Hijili Tidal or Orissa Coast Canal. Floods.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

503. The outlay of Rs. 2,529 (direct charges) chargeable to Capital was expended during the year, principally on extensions and improvements to the distributaries in No. 4 subdivision. The total Capital expenditure (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 83,08,449. Capital account.

504. The lengths of main canal, distributaries and village channels remain the same as last year, viz., main canal and branches, 69¾ miles; distributaries, 26·689 miles; village channels, 29·95 miles; and drainage channels, 54·42 miles. Lengths of canals, etc.

505. The flood in the river Cossye at Mohanpore on the 19th July 1908 was 4½ feet below the highest recorded. Floods.

506. The total rainfall registered at Midnapore and Panchkura was 58·25 and 48·74 respectively, while the average for the previous ten years was 59·69 in the former, and 57·82 in the latter. Rainfall.

Irrigation.

507. The area irrigated from the canal was 63,824 acres against 62,040 acres in the previous year. There was a heavy demand for canal water during the months of October and November owing to insufficient rainfall. As the supply in the river was sufficient no difficulty was experienced in meeting this demand. Out of the total demand of Rs. 1,18,490, Rs. 1,18,227 were realized and Rs. 240 remitted, leaving an arrear balance of Rs. 23. The assessment on account of water-rates was Rs. 1,18,391 as compared with Rs. 1,04,990 in the previous year. The increase was due to the area leased during the year being assessed at Rs. 2 per acre instead of Re. 1-8 as formerly.

Navigation receipts.

508. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 33,897 against Rs. 35,345 in the previous year. The decrease is due to (1) closure of the canal and (2) obstruction of traffic owing to deposits of silt in the 8th reach of the canal.

Financial results.

509. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 1,74,498 and Rs. 2,19,787, respectively, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 45,289 as compared with a deficit of Rs. 39,117 in the previous year.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

Capital account.

510. Rupees 3,32,040 chargeable to the Capital account (direct charges) was expended during the year principally in constructing the new Ultadanga Bamanghatta Canal and also on the construction of a new bridge over the new cut canal.

Navigation receipts.

511. The receipts from Navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 4,10,149 as compared with Rs. 4,31,456 in the preceding year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 4,31,655 and Rs. 2,93,525, respectively; the figures for the previous year, including the Madaripur Bhil Route, for which a separate account has since been opened, were respectively Rs. 5,22,734 and Rs. 4,68,713.

Madaripur Bhil Route.

512. Rupees 1,39,346, debitable to Capital outlay was expended during the year in deepening by dredging the channel through the bhil. Half of this amount is payable by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The total Capital outlay to end of 1908-1909 stands at Rs. 17,25,209, of which Rs. 15,88,292 is debited to this Government and the balance to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were respectively Rs. 38,107 and Rs. 22,895. The net revenue was, therefore, Rs. 15,212, of which Rs. 1,249 represents the share credited to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The net revenue during 1907-1908 was Rs. 45,785. The falling off in 1908-1909 was due to the steamer service being obstructed by the low level of water in the bhil channel at the commencement and end of the season.

Nadia Rivers.

513. The approximate lengths of the channels comprised in the Nadia Rivers are as detailed below:—

	Miles.
Faracca channel between Ganges and Bhagirathi rivers ...	25
Bhagirathi river	157½
Bhairab Jalangbi	146
Mathabhanga	137
Hooghly	32
Total ...	497½

The increase of 25 miles in the figures of 1907-1908 is due to the inclusion of the Faracca channel, where dredging and training works were done during the year. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 28,759 and Rs. 1,22,251, respectively, against Rs. 35,229 and Rs. 1,18,139, respectively, in the preceding year. The falling off in receipts is attributable to poor crops, to the unfavourable state of the rivers and to the diversion of traffic by railways.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

514. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 3,469 and Rs. 8,753, respectively, against Rs. 2,410 and Rs. 9,994, respectively, in the previous year. The collection of tolls has been farmed out for the two years 1908-1909 and 1909-1910 at Rs. 4,500 per annum. Gaighatta and Baxi Khal.

515. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 19,720 and Rs. 16,030, respectively, against Rs. 18,957 and Rs. 31,112, respectively, in the year 1907-1908. The area irrigated during the year was 20,768 acres against 22,115 acres in the preceding year. The decrease is due to unrenewal of unfavourably situated leases which lapsed. Eden Canal.

SONE CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Sone Canals.

516. The outlay (direct charges) charged to the Capital account of the Sone Canals during the year was Rs. 1,698. The amount was spent in completing the work in connection with acquiring the Midnapore village channel and remodelling it into a minor distributary. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) up to the end of 1908-1909 was Rs. 2,58,14,000. Capital account.

517. The lengths of canals and distributaries in operation at the close of the year are as detailed below:— Lengths of canals, etc.

Particulars.	Canal system.			Total.
	Arrah.	Eastern Sone.	Buxar.	
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Canals for irrigation and navigation.	74½	86¼	57¾	218½
Canals for irrigation only ...	71¼	...	77½	148¾
Distributaries	473½	338	407¾	1,219¼

518. The average rainfall of the 12 stations was 24·85 as compared with the average of 33·06 inches and 40·51 inches in 1907-1908 and 1906-1907, respectively. There was practically no rain in the months of October, November and December, and in other months the rainfall was below the average. Rainfall.

519. The acreage irrigated was 430,808 for *kharif*, 197,533 for *rabi*, and 24,955 in the hot weather, a total of 653,296 acres. There was an increase in the total and in irrigation for *kharif*, a small decrease in respect of *rabi*, and a heavy decrease in hot weather irrigation. Irrigation.

The area under long lease at the end of the year was 400,616 acres against 396,303 acres at the end of the previous year. All the long-term leases which lapsed in March 1908 were renewed. The area irrigated during the *kharif* season was the highest on record; this was due to the short rainfall. The supply in the river was sufficient throughout the season. The realizations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 17,78,024 against the demand of Rs. 17,80,505 as compared with Rs. 15,61,244 and Rs. 15,65,009, respectively, for 1907-1908. The amount remitted was Rs. 2,234 and the balance unrealized at the end of the year was Rs. 247. The revenue from water-rates shows a satisfactory increase.

520. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 12,585 against Rs. 26,506 in the previous year. The decrease is due mainly to the continuous scarcity prevailing in these districts and to a great extent to the opening of the Gaya-Moghalserai line. Navigation receipts.

521. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 18,62,129 and Rs. 7,50,672, respectively, against Rs. 16,49,936 and Rs. 7,98,394 in the preceding year. Financial results.

Closure of canals.

522. Repairs necessitated the closing of portions of the Main Western Canal for two months, of the Main Eastern and Patna Canals for one month and of the Buxar and Arrah Canals for three weeks. The Main Eastern was closed to navigation for six weeks after 25th May owing to the lowness of water in the Sone.

Floods.

523. There were no very high floods in the Sone river during the year though the duration of the floods was abnormal and kept the river above the anicut at a height which necessitated the closing of the head sluices at Dehri and Bārūn for several hours continuously.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

Protective Irrigation Works.

Tribeni and Dhaka Canals.

524. The expenditure (direct charges) on the Tribeni Canal during the year was Rs. 6,54,141, and on the Dhaka Canal Rs. 23,551. The progress made with the works up to 31st March 1909 is as follows:—

Tribeni Canal.—In the upper half the main canal with all masonry works was practically completed by the close of the year. In this portion the head sluices of all the distributaries were constructed, and about two-thirds of the excavation and one-fourth of the masonry works in the distributaries was completed. In the lower half of the canal two-thirds of the excavation, 2 out of 10 major works and 8 out of 13 minor works were completed, and fair progress was made with the remainder.

Dhaka Canal.—The construction estimate of the Dhaka Canal project was closed on 31st March 1908, and out of the schedule of incomplete works sanctioned by the Government of India in February 1909, the construction of quarters for a zilladar was approaching completion at the close of the year, and the land for four village channels was under acquisition.

In addition the following works, not included in the schedule, were completed:—

(1) Flood damage repairs to the weir at the head.
(2) Construction of a drainage syphon on the main canal.
(3) Construction of a drainage syphon on the Patahi Branch canal.

The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal were Rs. 27,149 and Rs. 21,766, respectively, against Rs. 17,808 and Rs. 19,802 in the preceding year. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 5,383 against a deficit of Rs. 1,994 during 1907-1908.

The acreage irrigated was 13,513 of which 9,574 was for *kharif*, an increase of nearly 1,000 acres, and 3,775 for *rabi*, a decrease of 254 acres on the previous year.

There was a strong demand for canal water for transplantation of winter rice and irrigation of early rice in August. The supply in the river fell short towards the end of the *kharif* irrigation season. The demand for *rabi* irrigation, which rose very high in the middle of the season, could not be met owing to the supply in the river having been completely absorbed in Nepal.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Saran Canals.

525. An area of 736 acres was irrigated from these canals. No departmental control was, however, exercised over this irrigation. The canals were opened and water supplied at the request of the Manager, Hathwa Raj and of Indigo Concerns, who paid for the cost of making necessary dams, etc.

Teur (Madhuban) Canal.

526. The only work of this class is the Teur (Madhuban) Canal which is 6·25 miles in length, with one distributary (Lakbaura) 6·30 miles long. The canal was maintained in good order at a total cost of Rs. 8,399 against Rs. 8,457 in the previous year. The total area irrigated during the year, inclusive of the zirat lands of the Madhuban Babu, which are irrigated free of charge, was 5,945 acres against 4,797 acres in the preceding year. The demand was high in August for transplantation of winter rice and irrigation of early rice.

527. Observations were made as to the discharges of several rivers in September and October : the Kopali and Rebo in Cuttack, the Salia and Monaguni in Puri and the Salindi in Balasore, all in the Orissa Circle ; the Damodar River at Jujuti from October to January, and the Ajai river at Satkahonia from June to December in the South-Western Circle, and six streams in Hazaribagh in the Western Circle during October. Observations as to discharge of rivers.

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1908-1909.]

528. The expenditure incurred on works and repairs (exclusive of book charges for establishment and tools and plant) on embankments and drainage works amounted to Rs. 10,55,725, compared with Rs. 9,43,812 in the preceding year. There was an increase of expenditure on embankments and a decrease on drainage works. Expenditure.

529. An aggregate length of 2,145 miles and 916 feet protecting a total area of 8,658,699 acres was maintained. Length of embankments and areas protected.

There was an increase of 1 mile 3,972 feet in the length of the Orissa embankments. In the South-Western Circle a length of 1 mile and 2,639 feet was added by taking over the embankment on the right bank of the Hooghly river from Ulubaria to Champa khal. In the Gandak Circle there was an increase of 3,395 feet. There has been no change in the Northern Circle. The embankments are generally effective against floods, but a few of them are overtopped or breached during very high floods.

530. There were moderate floods in the rivers Mahanadi, Koakhye, Dya and Brahmini in the Orissa Circle. No damage was done. The highest flood in the Baitarni river was 6·40 feet below the highest known, and the floods in the rivers in the Balasore Division were also low. Floods.

There were no high floods in any of the rivers of the South-Western Circle and little or no damage was done to the embankments. There were two floods in the Selye river, and some of the breaches caused by the floods of 1907-1908 were enlarged. The Harsingpur retired line was breached, and about 20 square miles of the Chetua circuit was damaged. Floods in the Cossye river caused some damage to the Raniganj road between Midnapore and Godapiasal. There were three floods in the Damodar river; that on 10th July 1908 was 2 feet lower than the highest recorded. The flood in the Bhagirathi river on 11th September 1908 was 3·69 feet below the highest recorded. No damage was done to the embankment.

There were no heavy floods in any of the rivers of the Gandak Circle nor was any damage done to the embankments. A new gauge station was established during the year at Bya near Zero of the Tirhut embankment in the running stream of the river Gandak to record cold-weather readings. The highest flood in the river Ganges at Bazitpur was $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet lower than the highest recorded level in 1879. The flood levels of the river Bagmati were about the same as in the previous year. The highest flood in the Bur Gandak river was 3 feet below that of the previous year. The Bhatinda sluice at the 32nd mile of the abandoned portion of the Baijoo retired line of the Champaran embankment has been cut away by the river. There were minor erosions in certain portions of the Saran embankment.

531. In the Orissa Circle a breach 45 feet in length occurred in the 3rd mile of Daib right embankment, No. 88B, and another breach, 150 feet long, in embankment No. 93B, Katjuri right, at Sarasundarpur. A short length at the end of the Chittertola right embankment, No. 56 (*c*), class B, was carried away owing to the cutting of the river channel just beyond the end of the embankment. Breaches.

Twenty-eight breaches occurred in the embankments of the South-Western Circle. Of these, eight occurred in the Selye left embankment, seven in the Ghatal circuit embankment, seven in the Chetua circuit embankment and four in the Darkeswar right embankment. The total expenditure incurred in closing breaches and in executing flood-damage repairs to the embankments was Rs. 1,56,274, against Rs. 94,881 in the previous year. The increase in

1908-1909 was due to repairing the damage done by the floods of 1907 to the embankments in the Cossye Division.

There were no breaches in the embankments of the Gandak and Northern Circles.

Surveys and investigations.

532. In the Orissa Circle plans and estimates were prepared for raising certain portions of the Argowal circuit embankment. The survey of the Subarnarekha river is still in progress. A project for a new embankment on the left bank of the Subarnarekha river in lieu of the present Bhograi and Jokee embankments, which was laid before the Embankment Committee, was not approved by them or by Government.

In the South-Western Circle, there were made (*a*) a survey of the Chetua circuit embankment and adjacent rivers with a view to ascertain some means for mitigating the damage done by the floods of the Selye river; (*b*) discharge observations of the Rupnarain and Selye rivers and the Mohunkhally khal; (*c*) surveys of the portion of the 37th and 38th miles of the Hooghly left embankment at Hooghly Point, where the river is encroaching; (*d*) a survey in connection with the Begua spill weir; and (*e*) a survey for the drainage of the town of Berhampore and improvement of the Gobra nala in the district of Murshidabad.

In the Gandak Circle surveys were made (*a*) for a cut from Bhagwanpur to Ramkola lake to improve the water-supply in the channels in the south-east corner of the Saran district; (*b*) for the extension of the Dehi retired line at the 24th mile, Saran embankment; (*c*) for the Fateypur retired line at 37th to 40th miles, Champaran embankment; and (*d*) for raising the old Sanat retired line at 52nd to 56th miles of the Saran embankment.

Original works.

533. The outlay of the year (exclusive of charges for establishment and tools and plant) for original works amounted to Rs. 87,366 as against Rs. 90,088 in 1907-1908. The more important works were as follows:—

In the Orissa Circle three permanent escapes in the Dya left embankment were nearly completed, the outlay being Rs. 32,265. The improvement of the channel of the South Kania river was completed; the work of closing the Gaichanda and Poontia cuttings was approaching completion. In raising the sea embankment No. 7B in the Balasore Division a sum of Rs. 4,864 was expended and about one-fourth of the work was completed.

In the South-Western Circle the construction of a sluice and an outfall channel at Sridharpur in the first mile of the Panchthupi left embankment was in progress, the expenditure to the end of the year being Rs. 4,741. The raising of the Buxi khal embankment at a cost of Rs. 5,607 was completed.

In the Northern Circle the earthwork of the Gupta embankment was completed at an expenditure of Rs. 63,186, dressing and turfing remaining to be done during the ensuing rains. The embankment will be maintained by the Gandak Circle, in which no original works were carried out.

Ordinary repairs.

534. The expenditure on repairs (without book charges for establishment and tools and plant) aggregated Rs. 5,29,366. The expenditure on repairs to the Orissa embankments was Rs. 57,482, against Rs. 53,038 in the previous year. The total cost of repairs to the embankments (class B) enumerated in Schedule D of the Embankment Act of 1873, in the Midnapore district, which are in the Orissa Circle, was Rs. 32,904, against Rs. 24,260 in the year 1907-1908. In the South-Western Circle the expenditure on ordinary repairs to Schedule D and other embankments was Rs. 94,620, against Rs. 1,01,588 in the previous year. There was a decrease in the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore and Murshidabad, while the expenditure in the other districts was rather greater than in the previous year. On (class C) *takavi* embankments under contract, *i.e.*, the class of embankments in the Midnapore, Muzaffarpur, Saran and Champaran districts, maintained at the expense of persons benefited, a sum of Rs. 1,20,397 was expended during the year as compared with the contract provision of Rs. 1,05,070. The outlay on the maintenance and special repairs of the Gandak embankments was Rs. 68,471, against Rs. 39,230 in the preceding year. The expenditure on the Midnapore embankments of this class in the Cossye and Balasore Divisions was Rs. 51,926, against Rs. 31,052 during the previous year.

Retired lines.

535. In the Orissa Circle Rs. 8,277, including charges for slope cutting (which is an alternative measure), was expended, against Rs. 1,509 in the

previous year. In the South-Western Circle the expenditure in the Burdwan, Hooghly, Midnapore, and Murshidabad districts was Rs. 60,313, against Rs. 41,495 in the previous year. The increase was chiefly in the Hooghly and Midnapore districts, while there was a decrease in the Murshidabad and 24-Parganas districts. In the Gandak Circle Rs. 40,774 was expended on the Saran and Tirhut embankments, the outlay of the previous year being Rs. 4,000 only. No retired lines were constructed in the Northern Circle.

Protection of river banks.

536. In the Orissa Circle the outlay incurred on repairs to revetments and other works for the protection of the river banks was Rs. 16,347, against Rs. 13,707 in 1907-1908. The expenditure on similar works in the South-Western and Gandak Circles was, respectively, Rs. 52,029 and Rs. 2,574.

Financial.

537. The actual outlay during the year on the Orissa embankments (class A) maintained as agricultural works, exclusive of charges for establishments and tools and plant, was Rs. 57,482, against Rs. 63,038 in the previous year, the average rate per mile being Rs. 118. The expenditure on (class B) Government embankments was Rs. 3,45,720, against Rs. 2,53,150 in the previous year, the average rate being Rs. 320 per mile, against Rs. 245 in 1907-1908. In the case of the embankments maintained on behalf of the persons benefited at a fixed annual charge in the districts of Midnapore, Saran, Champaran and Muzaffarpur, the aggregate expenditure of the year was Rs. 1,20,397, as against contract payments amounting to Rs. 1,05,070. The contract payments in these districts are respectively Rs. 50,755, Rs. 23,900, Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 10,415, while the maintenance charges were Rs. 51,926, Rs. 51,849, Rs. 7,089 and Rs. 9,533. In Saran expenditure had been light in the two preceding years.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Drainage Act, VI (B C) of 1880.

538. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Barajolla drainage works in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order at a cost of Rs. 8,250 as compared with Rs. 18,122 in the preceding year. The receipts from these works, which were formerly credited to the Civil Department, have been transferred to the Irrigation Department from 1st April 1907.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act. VIII (B. C) of 1895.

539. The only work which has as yet been taken up under Act VIII (B.C.) of 1895 is the Magrahât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district. It is designed to drain the swamps around Magrahât in the central portion of the tracts enclosed by the 24-Parganas embankments. Rupees 14,06,031 has been expended to date, of which Rs. 3,50,378 was expended during the year on works, establishment and tools and plant. Fair progress has been made with the scheme. Sections II and III were nearly completed during the year. The main sluice at Diamond Harbour in connection with Section I was practically completed. The creek at Diamond Harbour was closed with a strong cross dam in March 1909.

Drainage works carried out under the provisions of the Embankment Act, II (B. C.) of 1882.

540. In the Orissa Circle the construction of the Argowal drainage khal with an outfall sluice was practically completed. The expenditure to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 1,25,756, against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 1,43,889. The Charial khal drainage scheme was maintained in good condition at a cost of Rs. 1,575, compared with Rs. 1,596 in the previous year. A large number of sluices in the Schedule D embankments are maintained under the provisions of the Act at the cost of the estates benefited.

Drainage works carried out at the cost of Government, but not under the provisions of any Act.

541. The Bullee bhil drainage works in the 24-Parganas district were efficiently maintained at a cost of Rs. 3,020. In the Midnapore district the Balliaghai main and branch drains, which are used both for drainage and navigation, were kept open to traffic throughout the year. The main drain has silted up very considerably, and silt clearance will be done as funds become available. The khas tahsil khals in charge of this Department in the same district were cleared of silt at a total cost of Rs. 13,181. Other khas tahsil khals are reported to have deteriorated slowly, and steps will be taken to effect silt clearance gradually by an increased annual grant.

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CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Imperial receipts in 1907-1908 and 1908-1909.

542. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts in 1908-1909 in comparison with those of 1907-1908:—

Major Heads.	1907-1908.	1908-1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,13,60,037	80,97,547	...	32,62,490
II.—Opium	6,69,21,111	6,44,38,031	...	24,83,080
III.—Salt	1,07,88,894	1,12,46,304	4,57,410	...
IV.—Stamps	77,94,137	77,99,919	5,782	...
V.—Excise	85,38,850	85,00,502	...	38,348
VII.—Customs	2,27,91,778	2,03,49,447	...	24,42,331
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	25,98,514	28,21,482	2,22,968	...
IX.—Forest	5,98,825	5,92,422	...	6,403
XI.—Tributes	28,675	34,175	5,500	...
XII.—Interest	13,73,883	12,66,389	...	1,07,494
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	1,92,350	1,61,158	...	31,192
XXV.—Miscellaneous	73,115	72,978	...	137
Total ...	13,30,60,169	12,53,80,354	6,91,660	83,71,475

The variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes:—*Land Revenue.*—Decrease due to special assignments to provincial revenues in aid of the provincial balance (Rs. 16,95,000), for sanitary improvements (Rs. 4,50,000), for bonus to low-paid Government servants (Rs. 1,33,000) and for additional police reforms (Rs. 4,00,000), as well as to smaller recoveries of survey and settlement charges owing to the postponement of recoveries in Bhagalpur and Monghyr in consequence of the failure of crops; *Opium.*—Sale of a smaller number of chests; *Salt.*—Larger importations and clearances for consumption; *Excise.*—Decrease due to the conversion of outstills into distillery shops on the introduction of the contract system in the districts of Monghyr, Purnea, Bhagalpur, Patna and Ranchi, as also to the failure of the *mahua* crop and depression in the lac and mica trades in the Chota Nagpur Division; *Customs.*—The most noticeable decrease in duty realized was in respect of the importation of cotton goods; *Assessed Taxes.*—Prosperity of the coal industry and increased profits made by the banks and jute mills assessed in Calcutta; *Forests.*—Decrease due to the disposal of the timber of the Tista Division to contractors instead of by departmental agency, and to the discontinuance of departmental operations in the Darjeeling Division; *Tributes.*—Realization of arrears from the states of Patna and Gangpur; *Interest.*—Reduction in the outstanding balances of loans; *Superannuation.*—Smaller net receipts from the Orphanganj Market at Kidderpore.

Imperial expenditure in 1907-1908 and 1908-1909.

543. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1908-1909 in comparison with 1907-1908:—

Major Heads.	1907-1908.	1908-1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	6,70,611	6,64,698	...	5,913
2.—Assignments and Compensations	1,12,938	1,17,048	4,110	...
3.—Land Revenue	9,37,927	11,17,096	1,79,169	...
4.—Opium	2,49,66,077	1,84,76,627	...	64,89,450
5.—Salt	3,62,630	3,65,620	2,990	...
6.—Stamps	2,04,977	2,31,194	26,217	...
7.—Excise	3,86,525	3,92,769	6,244	...
9.—Customs	10,93,792	10,62,246	...	31,546
10.—Assessed Taxes	76,530	80,001	3,471	...
11.—Forests	3,56,697	2,91,990	...	64,707
14.—Interest on other obligations	17,085	20,186	3,101	...
18.—General Administration	2,83,943	2,95,771	11,828	...
23.—Ecclesiastical	2,16,417	2,15,390	...	1,027
25.—Political	10,794	14,461	3,667	...
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	34,673	36,650	1,977	...
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions	8,55,761	9,40,002	84,241	...
28.—Civil Furlough	...	68	68	...
29.—Superannuation	38,132	37,914	...	218
32.—Miscellaneous	16,796	22,169	5,373	...
33.—Famine Relief	6,73,526	7,83,297	1,09,771	...
45.—Civil Works	5,000	5,000	...	...
Total ...	3,13,20,831	2,51,70,197	4,42,227	65,92,861

The principal fluctuations are explained as follows :—*Land Revenue.*—Larger expenditure in connection with survey and settlement operations; *Opium.*—Smaller payments to cultivators owing to smaller outturn; *Stamps.*—Adjustment under this head, for the first time, of a portion of the charges of the Calcutta Collectorate previously debited to Excise, and to larger issues of stamp paper from the central stores; *Excise.*—Larger expenditure for temporary establishment and allowances; *Customs.*—Smaller payments of overtime and holiday allowances to the preventive staff; *Forests.*—Gradual substitution for departmental operations of removal of timber by purchasers, smaller cost of repairs to steam-launches and survey charges, as well as to the absence of senior officers on leave; *General Administration.*—Revision of establishments; *Territorial and Political Pensions.*—Payment of the arrears of pension of Kulsumnisa Begum of the Nizamat family; *Famine Relief.*—Expenditure on relief operations in Darbhanga.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Customs Administration Report, 1908-1909, also called the Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal, 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

Revenue from Customs.

544. The gross revenue from Customs (inclusive of 4·66 lakhs paid at district treasuries on account of salt imported at Calcutta) was Rs. 3,16,23,146 against Rs. 3,37,18,412 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 5,30,015 against Rs. 5,11,713, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 3,10,93,131, representing a decrease of 6 per cent. on the previous year's figures.

The gross import duties amounted to 306·88 lakhs: of this amount, salt (including the inland collections) amounted to 115·75 lakhs, an increase of 3 per cent. The collections on account of other articles fell from 217·64 to 191·13 lakhs. This was due to falls of 32 per cent. in the case of cotton manufactures and of 9 per cent. in metals. The export duty collections rose from 7·07 to 9·34 lakhs—a figure still much below those of previous years. The small increase in refunds and drawbacks was due to larger refunds on account of salt, and larger re-exports of jewellery on which drawback is allowed. The refunds of the specific duty on arms were slightly less than in the previous year. The collections of the tea cess exhibited a slight rise of two per cent. to Rs. 2·21 lakhs.

Net income.

545. The net income of the Custom House amounted to Rs. 2,99,48,825 against Rs. 3,19,68,629 in 1907-1908, being a decrease of nearly 6 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports (Cuttack, Puri and Balasore) was Rs. 47,533 against Rs. 36,535 in the previous year.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

546. There were 424 cases of infringement of the Customs law and rules against 170 in the previous year. Of these, 270 (against 160 in the previous year) were cases of undervaluation, involving payment of extra duty amounting to Rs. 7,389 and penalties of Rs. 1,295. The cases do not include 297 instances in which minor errors of undervaluation were corrected by the appraisers without further action being necessary. It was not found necessary to take over goods on behalf of Government in any case. The increase over last year's figure is due partly to the latter being greatly below the average, and partly to the exceptional attention given to the Appraising Department during the year.

Merchandise Marks Act.

547. The number of cases dealt with under the Merchandise Marks Act was 376 against 394 in the previous year. Of these 307 cases related to offences of false trade descriptions.

The aggregate amount of penalties levied was Rs. 3,493.

Administration.

548. With the approval of the Government of India, the working hours of the Custom House were modified, with effect from the 2nd January 1909, from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. to 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., arrangements being made for work till 6 P.M. when essential. The Custom House Treasury was, from the same date, closed at 3-30 instead of 4 P.M., emergent payments being taken till the later hour. The Executive Audit Department was fully organized during the year, and has been sanctioned for another year for further experience of its working. There were several small changes of procedure, among which may be noted the reduction of landing charges on baggage, the introduction of the United Kingdom form of landing book for recording the weight of goods imported, and the extension of the deposit system to provisional payments.

OPIUM.

[Report on the Administration of the Opium Department, 1907-1908. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—Finance and Revenue.]

Settlements.

549. During the opium year (November 1907 to October 1908) the area actually engaged for poppy cultivation was 845,291 bighas, viz., 236,228 bighas in the Bihar Agency and 609,063 bighas in the Benares Agency, against 320,781 and 631,232 bighas respectively in the previous year. In the Bihar Agency the area actually cultivated was 201,980 bighas as compared with 283,379 bighas in 1906-1907, representing a decrease of 28 per cent. In the Benares Agency 601,231 bighas were sown, or only $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. less than the full area engaged for.

Climatic conditions.

550. In the Bihar Agency the weather was on the whole unfavourable. The monsoon was deficient and ceased early, and the consequent drought caused the sowings to be late. The crop, however, germinated well, and the rain in the latter part of January and the beginning of February saved the situation. In the Benares Agency the monsoon rains of 1907 practically came to an end by the third week of August, and no more rain fell until the second week of January 1908. Sowings were therefere delayed, but the germination was good and there was every hope of a good outturn ; but the hot winds which followed had an injurious effect and destroyed the greater portion of the backward crop.

Outturn.

551. The outturn of opium in the two Agencies taken together shows a further diminution in the opium year of 21,802 maunds representing 23 per cent. as compared with the year 1906-07. This decrease which was not confined to either Agency is attributable partly to the smaller area sown and partly to the unfavourable weather which prevailed. In Bihar the general average gross produce per bigha was 3 seers 1 chittack and 2 kachas, which was a slight improvement over that of the preceding year, and was probably due to the eilmination of the least productive areas in that Agency. The average yield per bigha in the Benares Agency was 3 seers 10 chittacks, being the lowest on record since 1883-1884 except in the year 1894-1895, when it was 3 seers $4\frac{1}{2}$ chittacks.

Consistence.

552. The general average of the consistence of the drug delivered was very high, viz., 76·34° in the Bihar Agency and 73·07° in the Benares Agency, against 72·69° and 67·35° respectively in the preceding year. This was due to the exceptional dryness of the season.

Advances to cultivators.

553. In the Bihar Agency, the value of the opium delivered by cultivators was Rs. 40,79,022, but the advances made for this opium amounted to Rs. 42,79,500, or Rs. 2,00,478 in excess of the value of opium. Of this sum, Rs. 1,89,978 were recovered, leaving a balance of Rs. 10,500 due to Government at the end of the year, which, when added to the balance of the previous year, gives a total of Rs. 15, 249 compared with Rs. 22,305 in 1906-1907.

In Benares the total advances made on account of opium, leaf and trash amounted to Rs. 1,27,90,309 and the final payments to Rs. 10,91,368, making a total of Rs. 1,38,81,677. The balance, as ascertained after weighments,

amounted to Rs. 75,980, out of which Rs. 55,575 have since been adjusted by recoveries from the cultivators. The net balance outstanding on 1st November 1908 was Rs. 20,405, of which Rs. 20,343 were for opium and Rs. 62 for leaf.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report, 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—Finance and Revenue.]

Salt bonding arrangements.

554. During the year the Government of India accepted the necessity for the removal of the salt golas from the Kidderpore Docks and approved of the construction of new golas at Munshiganj on Tolly's Nulla. Subsequently the Collector of Customs reported that he had obtained the consent of the salt bonders to the concentration of the bonding business at Sulkea on the west side of the river. This concentration was reported to have many advantages in economy of initial outlay and in recurring expenditure for supervision, and the Government of India approved of the proposal to abandon the scheme to build golas at Munshiganj, and in lieu thereof sanctioned the extension of the accommodation at Sulkea. An increase in the rate of rent for bonding salt, viz., from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per mensem for every 1,000 maunds, was also sanctioned to meet the interest on the cost of construction of the new golas and of their future maintenance.

Credit-system for payment of duty on salt.

555. The Indian Salt Duties Act, X of 1908, came into force from September 1908, and rules have been made under the Act providing for the payment of duty on salt within a period not exceeding six months from the date on which payment is due and for the furnishing of security for such payment.

Imports.

556. There was a continued and considerable increase in the quantity of salt imported into Bengal by sea during the year compared with the two previous years, but the quantity of Madras salt imported by land into Orissa decreased by 13,790 maunds. This decrease is attributed to the failure of crops and consequent dearness of food-grains in the district of Cuttack and to the large increase in the import of Madras salt in the previous year.

Consumption.

557. The quantity of salt which passed into consumption amounted to 8,506,448 maunds against 8,281,916 maunds in the previous year. The average rate of consumption per head works out at 8 seers 5 chittacks as compared with 8 seers 8 chittacks in 1907-1908.

Prices.

558. There was a slight decrease of 1 anna 8 pies in the average wholesale price per maund of salt, and the average retail price for the Province fell from 11 pies a seer in 1907-1908 to 10 pies a seer.

Prosecutions.

559. There was a substantial increase on the figures of 1907-1908 in the number of seizures of illicit salt and in the number of prosecutions under the Salt Laws during the year. In the 24-Parganas the number of cases under section 9 of Act XII of 1882 was 61 against 38 of the previous year. The increase is ascribed to the scarcity prevailing in the district. In the districts of the Orissa Division there was also an increase in the number of cases which is attributable to the same cause.

Financial Results.

560. The financial results of the year compared with those of 1907-1908 show an increase of over 4½ lakhs, or 4·2 per cent. in receipts, and of Rs. 20,425, or 4·3 per cent. in expenditure, the net revenue exceeding that of the previous year by 4·2 per cent.

Rebate of salt duty for fish-curing.

561. An experimental fish-curing yard was established during the year at Dhamra, in the district of Balasore, the Raja of Kanika bearing the initial cost of construction of a yard on his own land. Fifty maunds of salt were issued duty free from the bonded warehouses at Chandbali for the use of the fishermen in this yard.

Trade in saltpetre.

562. The quantity of salt educed in the manufacture or refinement of saltpetre in all the refineries in Bengal and removed on payment of duty was 24,112 maunds against 18,104 in the previous year.

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in Bengal in 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—Finance and Revenue.]

Administrative changes.

563. Among the administrative changes which took effect during the year were the extension of the distillery areas in the districts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur, the introduction of the distillery system into a

portion of the district of Ranchi, the abolition of passes for the transport of imported liquor, the increase of the rate of duty on country spirit during the year in 11 districts or parts of districts, the abolition of 16 country-spirit shops in Calcutta, the reduction of the limit of retail sale of country spirit from 12 bottles to 6 bottles in Calcutta, and the reduction of the strength of spirit issued from the Russa Distillery from 17° U.P. to 20° U.P. The three reforms last mentioned were carried out on recommendations made by the Committee which sat in 1907-1908 to examine questions relating to the number and location of shops licensed for sale of spirituous liquor in Calcutta and the suburbs.

Local Advisory Committees.

564. Local Committees were also appointed in February and March 1909 in 28 large towns to advise Collectors with regard to the licensing of liquor shops for the current year. In six of the towns the Committees did not meet, and in several instances no interest was evinced in the proceedings. The Committee in each case was composed of the Collector of the district as Chairman, with the Superintendent of Police, the Chairman of the Municipality, and in towns where the Collector was the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality and one Municipal Commissioner nominated by the Municipal Commissioners for each ward in which liquor shops were to be licensed, as members. The settlement proposals for the current year, so far as related to the municipal areas, were referred to the Committees for advice. Any pronouncement as to the usefulness of the work done by the Local Committees would at present be premature.

Excise Bill.

565. The revised Excise Bill was passed in the Bengal Council in January 1909 and received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General after the close of the year.

Revenue.

566. The total receipts of the year, inclusive of advance collections, amounted to Rs. 170 lakhs against Rs. 170¾ lakhs in the preceding year, showing a decrease of three-quarters of a lakh of rupees. Country spirit, *ganja* and opium gave 89¾ lakhs, 28 lakhs, and 27¼ lakhs, or 53 per cent., 16 per cent., and 16 per cent. respectively of the total revenue of the year. The receipts from *ganja* and opium showed an increase of 1½ lakhs and 1 lakh, or 5·7 and 3·8 per cent. respectively, while the receipts from country spirit showed a falling off of 4¼ lakhs, or 4·5 per cent. The incidence of taxation per gallon of L.-P. spirit under the contract and central distillery systems taken together was Rs. 5·7 against Rs. 5 in the previous year, and the average fee for each outstill was Rs. 2,148 against Rs. 2,393 in the preceding year.

Country spirit.

567. The total revenue from country spirits was Rs. 89,85,534 against Rs. 94,01,075 in the previous year. Consumption decreased by 92,998 gallons L.P. in the contract and central distillery areas, but there was an increase of Rs. 2,63,667 in the total revenue derived from country spirit in these areas. This was a satisfactory result.

The number of licenses for the sale of country spirit (contract distillery and outstill liquor) was 2,997 against 3,039 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 42. In Sambalpur 21 outstills were abolished in pursuance of the policy of reducing the facilities for obtaining drink in that district. In Calcutta 11 country-spirit shops were abolished in accordance with the recommendation of the local Excise Committee. In the Sonthal Parganas the number of country-spirit shops was increased by 7 to check illicit practices and meet the local demand.

Sites of shops.

568. Special attention was paid during the year to the location of liquor shops.

New private distilleries.

569. Two new distilleries equipped in the modern method were opened during the year. One is owned by an Indian manufacturer.

Tari.

570. The Indian Excise Committee remarked on the excessive number of *tari* shops in Bihar and recommended the reduction of the number. Since the date of their report a substantial reduction has been effected in the number of *tari* shops, which has led to increased competition at the annual sales and to an increase of revenue in almost all the districts.

Country rum.

571. The receipts from license-fees for the sale of rum amounted to Rs. 13,200 against Rs. 17,140 in the previous year. The consumption of Madras and Konnagar rum increased by 1,532 gallons and 210 gallons respectively, while Shahjehanpur rum declined by 1,063 gallons.

572. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of imported liquor was 589 against 526 in the previous year, while the receipts derived from license-fees amounted to Rs. 2,94,058 against Rs. 2,68,288 in the previous year. The fall in imports of better class spirits is attributed to the general depression, and also to the fact that the imports in the previous year were exceptionally large, and heavy stocks had accumulated. The imports of other kinds of spirits which include plain spirits, however, showed an increase of 24,178 gallons. It is suspected that inferior foreign liquor is displacing country spirit in Calcutta. Imported liquor.

573. The license-fees realized from *ganja* showed an increase of Rs. 73,351 over the figures of the previous year. The existence is noticed of a large traffic in illicit *deshi* or indigenous *ganja*, which is smuggled into Sambalpur. In order to suppress this smuggling it is proposed that Rajshahi *ganja* should be again introduced into the district. Rajshahi *ganja* was supplied to Sambalpur in 1906-1907, but the supply was discontinued in the following year as it was believed to be more potent and harmful than the Khandwa drug. Chemical analysis has, however, lately led to opposite conclusions. Ganja.

574. Smuggling of opium (chiefly of excise opium) to Burma continued to be practised on a large scale. With the object of checking this smuggling the supply of opium to each shop in Calcutta and the adjoining districts of the 24-Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly has been limited to the estimated normal local demand. Power has been taken to cancel a license if there is reason to believe that it is used as a cloak for illicit sales, including sales to opium-smugglers. The register showing the quantity of opium issued to each shop is carefully examined every month, and when any abnormal increase in any shop is noticed which cannot be satisfactorily explained immediate action is taken. Opium.

575. There was a decrease in the total number of persons arrested for offences against the Excise and Opium laws as compared with the preceding year. The number of arrests for illicit distillation of country spirits exhibited a large decrease, which appears to have been mainly due to the scarcity of the *mahua* crop. The number of persons arrested for smuggling illicit opium and for illicit possession of opium also showed a decrease, though in view of the prevalence of smuggling to Burma an increase might have been expected. On the other hand, there was an increase in detections of comparatively minor offences, such as unlicensed sale of country spirit and *tari* and illicit possession of *tari*, cocaine, *madak* and *chandu*. A considerable number of arrests was made in Orissa for the possession and smuggling of *garhjat* or indigenous *ganja*. Excise offences.

STAMPS.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department in Bengal, 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—Finance and Revenue.]

576. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,51,29,000 against Rs. 1,51,18,275 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 10,725. The increase of revenue arose entirely from court-fee stamps, there being a decrease in the revenue collected under the general Stamp Act. The total charges during the year amounted to Rs. 4,01,698. Revenue under Stamp and Court-fees Acts.

577. The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies, rose from Rs. 98,73,553 to Rs. 1,00,51,023, that is, by Rs. 1,77,470. The largest increase (Rs. 2,10,317) occurred in Calcutta, and is attributable mainly to the payment of high succession duties in the case of certain large estates. The largest decrease (Rs. 55,714) occurred in Purnea, and was consequent on the conclusion of survey and settlement operations in that district. Court-fee stamps.

578. There was a net decrease of Rs. 71,096 in revenue from the sale of non-judicial stamps, due to the decline in receipts from the sale of *hundis* or inland bills of exchange, foreign bill stamps, share transfer stamps, Non-judicial stamps.

and notarial stamps. In Calcutta there was a marked fall of revenue, the figures being Rs. 2,20,274 below those of 1907-1908. The decrease was due to the general stagnation in trade and to the agricultural depression.

Vendors. 579. Vendors numbering 2,897, or 13 more than in the previous year, were licensed to sell judicial and non-judicial stamps.

Penalty for deficient duty. 580. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the Courts shows an increase of 628, and there was an increase of Rs. 3,873 in the duty and penalty realized in comparison with the realizations of the preceding year.

Breaches of the Acts or Rules. 581. In all 2,195 persons were tried for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act against 579 persons in the previous year. The fines imposed, including composition money, amounted to Rs. 9,562 against Rs. 4,429. The increase was partly due to proceedings taken against some Marwari bankers in Calcutta, whose files contained a large number of unstamped documents. The amount distributed in rewards rose from Rs. 8,351 to Rs. 8,081.

INCOME-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-tax Department for 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—Finance and Revenue.]

Financial results. 582. The receipts, charges and net revenue derived from the collection of income-tax were Rs. 56,50,644, Rs. 1,72,236 and Rs. 54,78,408, respectively. The net revenue showed an increase of 8·9 per cent. as compared with an increase of 7 per cent. in 1907-1908.

Assessment and collections. 583. The increase was obtained from all the four main classes of assessees, salaries (Part I) contributing Rs. 65,802, companies (Part II) Rs. 2,77,415, securities (Part III) Rs. 16,366 and other sources (Part IV) Rs. 66,098, or 15·5, 65·2, 3·8 and 15·5 per cent. of the total increase respectively. The increase under Part II was mainly due to the larger profits made by coal companies, and also to increased profits of the banks and jute mills assessed in Calcutta.

The total number of assessees in the lowest class of Part IV (that is, those assessed on an income of Rs. 1,000, but less than Rs. 1,250) was 10,511, against 10,647 in the preceding year. There was no indication of any tendency on the part of the assessing staff to bring under assessment, without adequate investigation, those who were exempted on the raising of the taxable minimum in 1903.

The final number of assessees and the final demand for the year 1908-1909 showed an increase of 845 persons and Rs. 4,83,600, or 1·9 and 10·2 per cent. compared with 4·6 and 7·9 per cent., respectively, in 1907-1908. Of the increase, Calcutta contributed 253 persons and Rs. 3,97,072, or 29·9 and 82·1 per cent. respectively—a result which is mainly attributed to the increase in the assessment on the profits of certain limited companies. Outside Calcutta the increase in the final demand was largest in the district of Burdwan, where it advanced from Rs. 1,07,503 during 1907-1908 to Rs. 1,49,706 during the year under report, the marked increase being due to the prosperity of the coal industry.

Forest Revenue.

[Report on the Forest Administration in the Province of Bengal for 1908-1909.]

Financial results. 584. Of the twelve Divisions, only the Direction and Angul Divisions worked at a loss. The total revenue rose to Rs. 12,16,948, an excess of Rs. 50,248 over 1907-1908, and of Rs. 2,00,513 over the average of the five preceding years, while the total expenditure was Rs. 5,96,506 against Rs. 7,10,300 in the previous year and a quinquennial average of Rs. 5,85,631. The net revenue, therefore, amounted to Rs. 6,20,442—a result which, from a financial and commercial point of view, is satisfactory.

Provincial Finance.

585. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1908-1909 in comparison with those of 1907-1908:— Receipts and Expenditure.

(The figures are in thousands.)

Receipts.	Actuals, 1907-1908.	Actuals, 1908-1909.	Expenditure.	Actuals, 1907-1908.	Actuals, 1908-1909.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	93,84	71,74	Direct demand on the revenues—		
			1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,51	1,31
			2. Assignments and Compensations	63	67
			3. Land Revenue	37,16	37,10
			6. Stamps	2,06	2,31
			7. Excise	3,87	3,93
Principal Heads of Revenue—			8. Provincial Rates	45	41
			10. Assessed Taxes	77	80
I.—Land Revenue—			11. Forests	3,57	2,92
			12. Registration	7,52	8,15
Proper	1,57,44	1,62,80	Total ...	57,55	57,60
Adjustments	21,02	43,96			
IV.—Stamps	77,94	78,00			
V.—Excise	85,39	85,01			
VI.—Provincial Rates	37,78	38,11			
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	25,98	28,21			
IX.—Forests	5,99	5,92	13. Interest on ordinary debt ...	3,03	4,92
X.—Registration	13,47	14,26			
Total ...	4,25,01	4,61,27			
XII.—Interest	3,50	5,22	Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
			18. General Administration	18,74	19,07
			19. Law and Justice—		
			Courts of Law	75,61	83,76
			Jails	26,97	27,70
Receipts by Civil Department—			20. Police	73,93	80,26
			21. Ports and Pilotage	11,96	22,62
XVI.—Law and Justice—			22. Education	45,53	55,29
			24. Medical	22,42	23,28
Courts of Law	5,80	6,40	25. Political	47	52
Jails	11,59	9,21	26. Scientific and other Minor Departments	10,76	12,27
XVII.—Police	1,41	1,81			
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	14,91	15,56	Total ...	2,86,39	3,24,77
XIX.—Education	5,65	7,18			
XX.—Medical	2,39	2,82			
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	2,77	2,86			
Total ...	44,52	45,84	Miscellaneous—		
			29. Superannuation, &c.	25,92	26,27
			30. Stationery and Printing	14,67	13,36
			32. Miscellaneous	3,91	5,69
			Total ...	44,50	45,32
Miscellaneous—					
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	4,16	60			
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,33	1,29	Famine Relief and Insurance—		
XXV.—Miscellaneous	5,86	6,35	33. Famine Relief	.....	1,57
Total ...	11,35	8,24	Avoidance of debt	2,60	2,60
			Railways (Revenue Accounts)—		
			40. Subsidized Companies—Land, &c.	3	.....
				2,63	4,17
Irrigation—					
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts)	23,81	26,34	Irrigation—		
			42. Major Works—		
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			Working expenses	14,25	13,97
			Interest on debt	21,07	20,91
By Public Works Department	6,53	5,79	43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Civil Department ...	1,07	1,02	By Public Works Department	18,77	20,32
			„ Civil Department ...	13	11
Total ...	31,41	33,15	Total ...	54,22	55,31
			Buildings and Roads—		
Buildings and Roads—			45. Civil Works—		
XXXII.—Civil Works—			By Public Works Department	72,54	62,94
			„ Civil Department	4,04	17,30
By Public Works Department	3,41	3,48	Total ...	76,58	80,24
By Civil Department ...	1,77	1,83			
Total ...	5,18	5,31	Contributions	19,19	.....
			Total ...	5,44,09	5,72,33
Contributions	55	.....	Closing balance	71,27	58,44
Total ...	5,21,52	5,59,03	Grand Total ...	6,15,36	6,30,77
Grand Total ...	6,15,36	6,30,77	Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (—) ...	—22,57	—13,30

The difference between the closing balance of 1907-1908 and the opening balance of 1908-1909 is due to an adjustment under "Balances of Provincial Surveys" during 1908-1909 made by the Government of India.

Variations—(*a*) Receipts.

586. The increase under *Land Revenue* was chiefly under collections from Government estates, due to settlements and resettlements of estates during the year with retrospective effect, and to the collections of arrears of the previous year. The increase under *Adjustments* was due to a special assignment in aid of the provincial balance, for sanitary improvements and for additional police reforms. The variations under the heads *Excise, Assessed Taxes and Forests*, which are divided equally between Imperial and Provincial, have been explained above in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Provincial Rates* was mainly due to valuations and revaluations and to the annual assessments of mines and forests in various districts, while that under *Registration* was due to an increase in the number of registrations effected. The increase under *Interest* was distributed among several heads, but was mainly due to the realization of interest on a loan of 50 lakhs to Sir Prodyat Coomar Tagore. The increase under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* was due chiefly to a special receipt amounting to Rs. 43,000 from the sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property in the district of Bhagalpur, and also to larger recoveries of fees, fines, etc., while the decrease under *Jails* was due to a smaller demand for manufactured articles. The increase under *Police* was due to larger recoveries for punitive police and for police supplied to private persons; that under *Ports and Pilotage* occurred under 'Pilotage receipts in the Port of Calcutta,' and the figures were swollen by the sale-proceeds of the pilot vessel *Fame* to the Port Commissioners; that under *Education* is attributable to the adjustment of the refunds made by District Boards of amounts placed at their disposal in the previous year for the construction of primary school buildings; that under *Medical* to larger receipts from paying patients; and that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* to the provincialization of the receipts from the Inland Labour Transport Fund. The decrease under *Superannuation* was due to the adjustment of Rs. 3,53,000 on account of the sale-proceeds of the Calcutta municipal debentures belonging to the Calcutta Police Superannuation Fund in the accounts of 1907-1908. The increase under *Miscellaneous* was under unclaimed deposits, and that under *Irrigation—Major Works* occurred in the water-rate collections of all canals, especially in the case of the Sone project, owing to an increase in the area irrigated by them. The decrease under *Irrigation—Minor Works* was due chiefly to a falling off of the navigation receipts from the Calcutta and Eastern and Orissa Coast Canals and the Nadia Rivers. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was due mainly to larger recoveries from the sale of buildings and old materials. The head *Contributions from Local to Provincial* ceased to exist from the year 1908-1909.

(*b*) Expenditure.

587. The decrease under *Refunds* was due to the absence of special adjustments under Land Revenue and Excise. The variations under *Stamps, Excise and Forests*, which are divided equally between Provincial and Imperial, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Registration* was due to the gradual reorganization of the Department; that under *Interest* is attributable to larger outstanding mean balances of Provincial Loans; that under *General Administration* came partly under the head "Legislative Council" and partly under "Board of Revenue and Divisional Commissioners"; that under *Courts of Law* is accounted for by larger payments of fees to Pleaders and Counsel in connexion with anarchist and conspiracy cases, to the establishment of a new Judgeship at Khulna, and to larger expenditure on remuneration to copyists, travelling allowance of officers, diet-money to witnesses and payment of bonus to low-paid Government servants; that under *Jails* to the high prices of food-grains; that under *Police* to expenditure on reorganization and reforms; that under *Ports and Pilotage* to the adjustment of the cost of the pilot-steamer *Lady Fraser*; that under *Education* to reorganization, larger expenditure for the construction of *guru*-training schools, the adjustment under this head of the contributions to District Funds which are made in order to establish equilibrium, and which were adjusted in the previous year under *Contributions*, and to larger payment

of grants-in-aid to native and European boys' and girls' schools. The increase under *Medical* was largely due to increased grants to hospitals and dispensaries; that under *Political* to heavier outlay in purchase of darbar presents; that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was due to the gradual expansion of the Agricultural Department and the cinchona plantation, and to the adjustment under this head for the first time of the inland labour transport charges consequent on the abolition of the Inland Labour Transport Fund. The increase under *Superannuation* was due to the continued growth of expenditure on retired allowances. The decrease under *Stationary and Printing* was in the cost of stationery supplied from the central stores. The increase under *Miscellaneous* was chiefly due to a special grant to the Sailors' Home, to refunds of excess recoveries on account of the Howrah and Rajapur drainage advances, and to large expenditure in connexion with the Fisheries Enquiry. The expenditure under *Famine Relief* was for relief operations in Darbhanga. The decrease under *Irrigation Major Works—Working Expenses* is accounted for by the fact that the cost of maintenance and repairs of the Orissa and Sone Canals was less than in the previous year; while the increase under *Minor Works and Navigation* was due to higher expenditure on the construction of a new canal from Ultadanga and Bamanghatta in connexion with the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and on the maintenance of the Government embankments, other than those in Orissa, and the takavi embankments under contract in the Midnapore and Saran districts. The decrease under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was due to the curtailment of expenditure on new works, while the increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Civil Departments* was due to the adjustment under this head of the grants to District Funds and District Road Funds for civil works consequent on the abolition of the head *Contributions from Provincial to Local.*

Local Finance.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1908-1909.]

588. The following table shows the income, expenditure and opening and closing balances of the Local Funds for the year 1908-1909 :— Balances.

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	28,59,489	78,72,206	1,07,31,695	85,45,422	21,86,273
District Road Funds	1,74,507	1,74,078	3,48,585	2,47,486	1,01,099
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	394	10,277	10,671	3,287	7,384
Barrackpore	14,055	50,319	64,374	53,684	10,690
Dum-Dum	1,712	27,263	28,975	24,852	4,123
Dinapore	2,217	40,141	42,358	35,039	7,319
Dorandá	2,804	1,308	4,112	2,392	1,720
Jalapahar	546	5,926	6,472	4,961	1,511
Lebong	1,144	6,483	7,627	6,316	1,311
Total ...	22,872	1,41,717	1,64,589	1,30,531	34,058
Cantonment Hospital Funds—					
Barrackpore ...	...	3,687	3,687	3,685	2
Dum-Dum	5	1,132	1,137	1,136	1
Dinapore	2	4,703	4,705	4,704	1
Jalapahar	1,189	822	2,011	1,947	64
Total ...	1,196	10,344	11,540	11,472	68
Town and Bazar Fund—					
Kolhan Market Fund ...	4,209	3,877	8,086	1,377	6,709
Police Funds—					
Village Chaukidari ...	1,00,003	3,81,464	4,81,467	3,79,908	1,01,559
Road Patrol	17,558	32,497	50,055	33,824	16,231
Steam-boiler Inspection ...	67,884	76,356	1,44,240	1,11,410	32,830
District Chaukidari Reward ...	76,323	39,171	1,15,494	42,181	73,313
Railway Police Clothing ...	2,638	6	2,644	...	2,644
Foundling Asylum ...	11	3,419	3,430	3,419	11
Fire-brigade	6,796	1,09,638	1,16,434	92,282	24,152
Total ...	2,71,213	6,42,551	9,13,764	6,63,024	2,50,740

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta)	22,434	77,009	99,443	1,03,939	—4,496
Orissa Ports	—2,780	20,256	17,476	17,476	...
Total ...	19,654	97,265	1,16,919	1,21,415	—4,496
Education Funds—					
Hindu College	708	4,751	5,459	2,750	2,709
Durga Charan Laha's ...	...	3,002	3,002	3,002	...
Jogiara Estate	26	2,100	2,126	1,609	517
Total ...	734	9,853	10,587	7,361	3,226
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrim's Lodging House ...	48,241	1,15,767	1,64,008	87,229	76,779
Cuttack Annachatra ...	4,141	20,503	24,644	18,069	6,575
Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment ...	595	7,769	8,364	8,364	...
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	1,296	1,115	2,411	79	2,332
Ram Lal Mukherjee's ...	4,221	1,895	6,116	4,040	2,076
Joy Gobind Laha's ...	3,596	5,150	8,746	2,027	6,719
Imambara Hospital ...	382	10,815	11,197	9,234	1,963
Sambalpur Dispensary ...	5,796	13,305	19,101	9,494	9,607
Puri Leper Asylum ...	229	364	593	279	314
Total ...	68,497	1,76,683	2,45,180	1,38,815	1,06,365
Public Works Funds—					
Darjeeling Improvement ...	34,417	95,797	1,30,214	1,08,816	21,398
Khondmal Road	1,253	6,666	7,919	6,744	1,175
Total ...	35,670	1,02,463	1,38,133	1,15,560	22,573
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Zoological Garden	22,098	63,191	85,289	78,071	7,218
Mohsin Endowment ...	24,160	1,00,174	1,24,334	1,13,550	10,784
Christian Burial Board ...	14,903	26,354	41,257	20,496	20,761
Muhammadan Burial Board ...	1,671	1,927	3,598	1,786	1,812
Total ...	62,832	1,91,646	2,54,478	2,13,903	40,575
Grand Total ...	35,20,873	94,22,683	1,29,43,556	1,01,96,366	27,47,190

An important change in the classification of Local Funds has been made under the orders of the Government of India contained in the Finance Department Resolution No. 6902A., dated the 19th November 1907. The existing *Incorporated* Local Funds have been placed in the same category with those hitherto known as *Excluded* Local Funds. The receipts and charges of the Inland Labour Transport Fund were merged in the general revenues of Government with effect from the 1st April 1908.

Changes and grants.

589. During the year the abolition of the Doranda Cantonment Fund was sanctioned, and a sum of Rs. 60,000 out of the balance of the Steam-boiler Inspection Fund was invested in Government securities.

The rate of hospital port dues was reduced from 6 to 4½ pies per ton in April 1908, and the Hospital Port Dues Fund (Calcutta) closed the year with a deficit balance of Rs. 4,496. This amount will be made good by selling some of the securities held by the fund. The deficit balance of the Orissa Ports Fund for 1907-1908, as well as the excess of expenditure over receipts during the year under report, were made good from Provincial Revenues.

The grants made by Government to the District Funds and District Road Funds during the year were Rs. 18,33,022 and Rs. 70,183, respectively, including 9 lakhs granted for augmenting their resources. Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment Fund received Rs. 6,023 from Provincial Revenues; the Muhammadan Burial Board Rs. 1,927, and the Khondmal Road Fund Rs. 1,598, equivalent to the plough-tax collections of 1907-1908, and Rs. 453 for the preparation of an estimate of the proposed road from Kumarkhali to Manmenda. The Mohsin Endowment Fund paid Rs. 5,000 towards the Hooghly-Chinsura Water-works Scheme.

The following grants were received by Cantonment Funds from the Military Department:—For roads—Dinapore, Rs. 2,500; for conservancy—

Dinapore, Rs. 7,308; Lebong, Rs. 4,455 and Alipore, Rs. 1,266; for hospitals—Dum-Dum, Rs. 1,000; for drains—Dum-Dum, Rs. 2,355; for re-building lock-up—Jalapahar, Rs. 1,600, and for other purposes—Jalapahar, Rs. 2,550.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report of the Road and Public Works Cess operations in Bengal for 1908-1909.]

590. The cesses were as before levied at the maximum rate of one anna in each rupee of the annual value of lands or annual net profits of mines and other immoveable property. Rate at which levied.

591. The current land revenue demand in the 30 districts where the Cess Act is in force was Rs. 2,85,42,251 and the valuation or gross rental amounted to Rs. 13,33,01,239. The total demand (current and arrear) was Rs. 86,75,600, and the total collections amounted to Rs. 73,17,693, leaving an outstanding balance of Rs. 13,58,529. The increase in the current demand (Rs. 2,71,365), which was particularly marked in Burdwan and Manbhum, was chiefly due to the annual valuation of existing mines and to the first assessment of new mines which were opened in consequence of the recent boom in the coal industry. The remissions amounted to Rs. 98,306, the bulk of which was due to the amalgamation of rent-free lands in Burdwan and Hooghly and was therefore nominal. (See also paragraph 47.) Demand and realizations.

592. The number of certificates framed for the realization of cess arrears was 83,736 against 80,502 in the previous year. Objections numbering 5,259 were filed in certificate cases, and 5,190 were disposed of, the corresponding figures for 1907-1908 being 5,455 and 5,356. In 1,380 cases the certificates were cancelled on account of such normal causes as the death and desertion of judgment-debtors, non-traceability of the actual holders, double assessments, the exemption of lands lying within municipal limits, non-registration of the names of rent-free holders who pay cesses to the Collector, and errors in the land registration registers and the cess ledgers. The number of cases in which reductions were made in the certificate demand was 119. The certificate procedure.

593. Notices for the sale of the defaulters' moveable and immoveable properties induced payment in 33,168 and 13,832 cases respectively. In 1,779 cases only (against 1,893 of 1907-1908) was recourse had to actual sale before the demands were satisfied. Of the sales, 678 (against 932 of 1907-1908) were set aside under sections 20 and 21 of the Certificate Act. Stage of procedure at which demands were satisfied.

594. During the year valuations or revaluations, partial or complete, were in progress in 14 districts. The annual valuation of profits derived by owners and occupiers of coal-mines in the Asansol subdivision of Burdwan resulted in an increase of Rs. 1,13,011 in the cess demand. Satisfactory results were also obtained from the annual assessments of mines and forests in the Chota Nagpur Division. Valuations and revaluations.

595. A Bill for the amendment of the Bengal Cess Act has since the close of the year been approved by the Government of India for introduction in the Bengal Council. Cess Bill.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1908. Statistics of British India—Part V.—Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

596. The rainfall during the monsoon period was below the normal throughout the Province, especially in Bihar, and it was also irregularly distributed. It ceased much earlier than usual, and during the winter months, except for a few local showers, there was no general or adequate fall. In consequence, the winter-rice crop suffered severely.

Births and deaths.

597. The year 1907 showed an excess of both births and deaths over the year preceding it, but during the year under review, while the ratio of deaths again increased, that of births showed a further falling off, the number of births registered in the Province (exclusive of Angul) being 1,823,716, or 36·09 per mille of population in comparison with 1,905,425, or 37·70 per mille, in 1907. In the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, the decrease in the number of births was due to the high prices of the principal food-grains, which re-acted upon the vitality of the people. The early part of 1908 was also unusually unhealthy. The total number of deaths reported was 1,948,513, or 38·56 per mille, against 1,906,192, or 37·72 per mille of population, during 1907. The average of the preceding quinquennium was 1,795,532, or 35·53 per mille. As in the previous year, it is reported that, owing to the difficulty in obtaining the ordinary food-grains, the poorer classes had recourse to less suitable forms of food, with a consequent deterioration in their general standard of health. In comparison with other provinces, Bengal stood below the Central Provinces, Punjab, United Provinces, Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the North-West Frontier Province in the matter of the recorded birth-rate, while only in the United Provinces and the Punjab was a higher death-rate returned. Within the Province, the most unhealthy Divisions during the year were those of Orissa and Chota Nagpur, where cholera prevailed extensively.

The experiment for testing the accuracy of the registration of vital statistics, which was started in 1906 in parts of the Burdwan district, was continued throughout the year under report, with the result that, out of 2,616 deaths recorded in the area under examination, the cause of death in no less than 1,036 cases was found to have been wrongly described, especially under the head of "Fever."

Cholera.

598. The mortality from cholera was the highest ever recorded. The total number of deaths registered was 268,908, or 5·32 per mille, in comparison with 205,702 deaths during the preceding year, which, in its turn, showed the highest death-rate returned since 1901. The climatic conditions of the year affected the sufficiency of the supply of drinking-water; and to this fact, as also to the use of unwholesome food, the regrettable incidence of the disease is attributable. Only six thanas in the whole of Bengal were free from it. It assumed unusual virulence in Balasore and Puri, where the ratio of mortality was as high as 26·20 and 14·41 per mille, respectively. The disease had also prevailed in epidemic form in Orissa in the preceding year. Only in the district of Darjeeling was the rate of mortality below 1 per mille.

Fever.

599. The number of deaths registered from fever was 1,184,704 compared with 1,171,540 in the previous year, and 1,122,397 the average of the five years 1903—1907, the ratios being 23·44, 23·18 and 22·21 per mille, respectively. The mortality returned under this head, though doubtless due in great part to causes other than malaria, represents no less than 60·80 per cent. of the total mortality in the Province from all causes. The worst affected district was Palamau with 40·19 deaths per mille, and it is noticeable that in the first eight districts which returned the highest mortality from this cause, occur the names of Palamau, Hazaribagh, Birbhum, Gaya, the Sonthal Parganas and Singhbhum, none of which can be described as water-logged. Anti-malarial measures were continued in the town of Ranaghat in Nadia, and in

one ward of the North Barrackpore Municipality in the district of the 24-Parganas. It has been decided to discontinue further operations at Ranaghat pending the preparation of a drainage scheme for the town.

In pursuance of the policy of conducting systematic investigations into the prevalence of fever, a special inquiry was made by Captain W. C. H. Forster, I.M.S., with the assistance of two Assistant Surgeons and six Civil Hospital Assistants, into the circumstances of the most malarious thanas in the Purnea and Murshidabad districts. Notwithstanding the unfavourable conditions of the year, there was a considerable decrease in the sale of pice-packets of quinine, which fell to 13,307 parcels as compared with 22,497 sold during 1907. Measures have recently been taken, which, it is hoped, will further extend and popularise the use of the drug, as the result of a reduction in its price and its issue not only in the form of powder, but also, and chiefly, in small tablets.

600. There was a noticeable increase in the mortality from dysentery and diarrhœa, the number of deaths recorded being 64,899, against 51,670 in 1907, 48,920 in 1906, and 47,441 the average of the five years 1903—1907. The causes operative in the case of cholera affected the figures under this head also. The Orissa Division again showed the highest mortality, the death-rate there being nearly double that of 1907, viz., 6·68 per mille in comparison with 3·75. Chota Nagpur stands next with a death-rate of 1·15, followed by Bengal (·92) and Bihar (·47). Dysentery and diarrhœa.

601. The number of deaths from these complaints was approximately equal to the number returned in the previous year. Altogether 15,399 persons succumbed, against 15,039 and 12,825 in the two preceding years, and 10,886 the average of the five years 1903—1907, the corresponding ratios being ·30, ·29, ·25 and ·21 per mille, respectively. Owing to the existing difficulties in the way of correct diagnosis, the statistics will probably show a progressive increase as the system of reporting improves. Respiratory diseases.

602. Slightly fewer deaths were recorded under this head than in 1907, the ratio per mille being ·49 as compared with ·50 in 1907. Deaths from snake-bite fell from 9,215 during the previous year to 8,789, and it is claimed that good results were obtained by the use of permanganate of potash. Injury.

603. The total expenditure of Municipalities under the heads "Drainage," "Water-supply" and "Conservancy," which amounted to Rs. 16,59,453 in 1901-1902 and Rs. 17,51,202 in 1902-1903, rose to Rs. 19,37,439 in 1906-1907 and Rs. 19,48,823 in 1907-1908. But the rate of progress achieved in comparison with what remains to be done is still slow, and although schemes are prepared, considerable difficulty is experienced in carrying them into effect, mainly owing to the want of funds. The working of the various septic tanks which have now been constructed in different localities, particularly in the mills along the banks of the Hooghly, received special attention, and an Inspector has recently been appointed to inspect the installations, with particular reference to their size and construction, and the proper sterilization of the effluents from them. Sanitary improvements.

604. During the year the Board prepared preliminary estimates for water-works in the Hooghly-Chinsura and Daltonganj Municipalities, and detailed estimates for water-works at Gaya. Six drainage schemes (for the towns of Burdwan, Khulna, Serampore, Arrah, Howrah and Darjeeling, respectively), and two projects for the construction of water-works at Puri and Murshidabad, were considered by the Board. The Sanitary Board.

Plague.

605. Plague prevailed in a much milder form than in any year since 1901, the total number of deaths from this cause being 15,948, against 83,602, 59,619, and 126,084 in 1907, 1906 and 1905 respectively. Of the deaths 53·71 per cent. occurred amongst females and 46·28 amongst males. The epidemic reached its climax in March in which the returns showed 6,001 deaths, after which the mortality dropped to 3,064 deaths in April and further dwindled to 489 deaths in May. More than two-thirds of the deaths occurred in the Patna Division, but the district of Monghyr which returned 2,533 deaths suffered worst. Inoculation is still viewed with great distrust, the number The epidemic during the year, and preventive measures.

of operations performed being 5,753 against 5,889 and 1,878 in the two preceding years. Fifteen cases of plague were reported to have occurred amongst the inoculated with four deaths. Evacuation is the measure most popular among the people and it is readily resorted to, in many cases without any prompting. Itinerant medical subordinates were employed in Patna, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga to treat plague cases and advise the people as to the best methods for prevention of plague. Rat destruction was carried on more or less vigorously in almost all the districts in Bihar.

Plague in Calcutta.

606. In Calcutta the plague epidemic was less severe than in previous years, the number of deaths being 1,779 or 2·09 per mille against 4·23 in 1907 and 6·24, the average of the preceding five years. The highest incidence occurred in April with 499 deaths and a case mortality of 95·2 per cent., the outbreak reaching its height in the week ending 4th April. The number of inoculations performed was 3,043 against 3,123 in 1907 and 101 in 1906. The post of Special Plague Officer was amalgamated with that of Health Officer, but the Plague and Health Departments were not amalgamated in any other respect.

Plague Observation Camp.

607. Siliguri is the only plague observation camp in the Province. There 91,091 persons were examined, but only eight of them were detained on suspicion of suffering from plague and all were eventually discharged.

Port precautions.

608. There was a suspected case of plague amongst the troops on the R. I. M. S. *Hardinge* while it was lying at the troop jetty. The patient was removed to the hospital and the vessel was thoroughly disinfected.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1908. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Population.]

Administrative measures.

609. An important legislative measure of the year under review was the consolidation in one Act (XVII of 1908) of the laws relating to colonial emigration, which were previously scattered throughout seven Acts. An amending Act (Act XII of 1908) was also passed to empower Local Governments to appoint more than one Medical Inspector of Emigrants, and also to exempt from the operations of the Indian Emigration Act subjects of foreign powers embarking from ports in British India for employment in any country beyond the sea. The despatch of emigrants to Fiji between the 7th October and the 20th February was formerly prohibited, so that they might not arrive there during the hurricane months. The Government of Fiji, however, represented that, as powerful steamers are now employed for the conveyance of emigrants, and as the health of Indian immigrants is as good during that period as during the rest of the year, restriction is no longer required. Amendments were accordingly made in the statutory rules to permit of the despatch in steamers of emigrants to Fiji at any season of the year.

Depôts and despatch of labour.

610. Six emigration agencies were at work, compared with seven in the preceding year. Of these agencies five despatched emigrants to British colonies, and one worked on behalf of the Dutch colony of Surinam. There was an increase both in the number of emigrants required by the colonies and in the number supplied: 9,276 adult labourers were requisitioned and 10,160 were supplied, compared with 8,414 and 6,889, respectively, in 1907. Natal and Jamaica received the full number of emigrants required, while the number supplied to Fiji and Surinam exceeded the demand. In the case of Demerara and Trinidad the number requisitioned was not supplied in full, but only because the vessels employed had not sufficient accommodation. There was no demand for labour for Mauritius.

Health and physical fitness.

611. The total number of emigrants registered was 17,748, or 4,588 more than in 1907. As in previous years, the majority (87 per cent.) of the emigrants was recruited in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and principally in the districts of Fyzabad, Basti and Gonda. Of 17,807

emigrants admitted to sub-depôts, 3,030 were rejected as unfit to emigrate. From Calcutta depôts, 10,519 embarked, or 3,341 more than in 1907, and at the close of the year 830 recruits were retained in the depôts for despatch. The largest number of labourers (3,039) was sent to Fiji, and the smallest number (405) to Jamaica. Three hundred and eighty-three returned emigrants re-engaged, as against 284 in the preceding year.

The sanitary arrangements in the depôts were satisfactory. There was a noticeable decrease in the number of cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis; and the percentage of mortality among the emigrants accommodated in the depôts was ·55, against ·74 in the preceding year.

612. Steamers were more largely employed in the emigrant traffic than in former years, the figures being 12 steamers and one sailing vessel, as compared with 7 steamers and 3 sailing vessels in 1907. Increased use of steamers.

613. Emigrants numbering 4,197 returned from the colonies during 1908, bringing with them savings amounting to over seven and one-third lakhs, the average for each emigrant being Rs. 175, as compared with Rs. 178 in the preceding year. On the other hand, 2,435, or slightly over one-third of the total number, brought back no savings at all. Of this number, however, 875 were children. As in previous years, the emigrants to Natal sent the largest remittances by money-orders, a sum exceeding nine lakhs. Returned emigrants and their savings.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[The Reports on Inland Emigration under Act VI of 1901 for the year ending the 30th June 1909, submitted by the Superintendents of Emigration, Calcutta, the Sonthal Parganas, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum and Singhbhum, and Sambalpur.]

614. During the year under review Government has maintained the policy of encouraging genuine free recruitment through *bonâ-fide* garden sardars working under Associations of recognised standing and probity. In the previous year concessions were made to the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association, by which garden sardars working under the control of the local agents of the Association were authorised to forward unindentured emigrants without producing them before a registering officer. To check any possibility of abuse local agents of the Association were required to submit monthly complete lists of emigrants forwarded by them, and Magistrates and Police Officers above the rank of Sub-Inspectors were empowered to inspect the local agents' registers at any time. These concessions have now been extended to the Assam Labour Association and the Longai Valley Employers' Recruiting Association. In extending the concessions, Commissioners of Divisions were requested to instruct local officers to license local agents nominated by the Associations, unless something was definitely known to their discredit, and to refuse to license as a local agent any person who was reasonably suspected to have any personal interest in, or connexion with, contractors or recruiters licensed or otherwise. They were also directed to cancel without hesitation the license of any local agent who might be guilty of a serious breach of the law or rules, particularly if he was found to have any dealings with recruiters other than the garden sardars of his Association. Administration.

615. During the year the Inland Emigration Act (Act VI of 1901) was amended by the passing of Act XI of 1908. This measure was the outcome of a desire expressed by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to withdraw certain provisions of Act VI of 1901 relating to labour districts from the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, Kamrup and Goalpara, so that contracts should no longer be taken from emigrants proceeding to those districts. It was at the same time desired to facilitate the experiment of free recruitment by garden sardars. Accordingly section 91 of Act VI of 1901 has been so amended by Act XI of 1908, that Local Governments may dispense with, or relax, by notification, any of the provisions of Chapters III and IV of Act VI of 1901, subject to any conditions which may be prescribed in the notification. The labour provisions of the Inland Emigration Act were withdrawn from the Surma Valley districts and the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara with effect from the 1st November 1908, and two notifications were issued by this Government Changes in the law.

under the revised section 91, in which it was declared that in the case of emigrants recruited for those districts by licensed contractors and by garden sardars not accredited to the local agent of an approved Association, the provisions of the Act which prescribe the execution of agreements should no longer be enforced, but that in other respects the procedure laid down in Chapters III and IV of the Act should continue to be followed. The Estate of Porahat in the district of Singhbhum was closed to recruitment by contractors, and the question of further restricting the areas in which recruitment by contractors is permitted is at present engaging the attention of Government.

Number of emigrants.

616. During the year ending the 30th June 1908, the number of emigrants of all classes recruited in Bengal, Madras, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces, who embarked at Goalundo was 81,587, as against 24,503 in the previous year. This was the largest number on record since 1897, and the striking increase was attributed to the scarcity and high prices of food stuffs prevailing in recruiting districts. In the year ending the 30th June 1909, the number of emigrants who embarked at Goalundo fell to 56,791. This decrease is due partly to the more prosperous character of the year and partly to a reduction in the demand consequent on the unusually large number of emigrants despatched in the previous year.

The total number of emigrants registered under Chapters III and IV of the Act in this Province was 8,048 and 3,183 respectively, compared with 8,748 and 6,825 respectively in the year 1907-1908. Of these, 733 emigrants recruited by the licensed recruiters, and 893 emigrants engaged by garden sardars, were forwarded without being placed on contract. Three hundred emigrants, as against 1,865 in the previous year, were recruited by garden sardars holding special permits under section 90, while 25,774 unindentured emigrants were engaged by garden sadars working under the control of approved Associations, as against 21,415 emigrants in the year 1907-1908. The work of the local agents of these Associations is reported to have been generally satisfactory, and no Superintendent of Emigration had occasion to cancel any local agent's license.

Number of recruiting agents.

617. The number of licenses issued to contractors and recruiters during the year fell to 22 and 294, respectively, from 24 and 340 in the preceding year. The total number of garden sardars employed in this Province was 9,112 or 2,102 more than in the year 1907-1908. Of these 795 worked under the ordinary procedure of Chapter IV, 112 held special permits under section 90, and the remaining 8,205 (as compared with 5,054 in the previous year) worked under the control of approved Associations. The increase in the number of sardars accredited to the local agents of the Associations deserves remark, as it indicates that employers in Assam are gradually realising the fact that the interests of the tea industry will be best served by free labour and genuine free recruitment by garden sardars.

The reports show that depôts and places of accommodation for emigrants were properly inspected and maintained in good sanitary condition.

Criminal cases.

618. Several cases of misdescription of emigrants by garden sardars were reported, and the offenders were suitably punished. There was a marked increase in the number of cases of illegal recruitment instituted in the Sonthal Parganas. The Deputy Commissioner attributes this to the fact that though the district has been closed to recruitment, a large number of recruiters still find it worth while to entice persons from that district to contractors' depôts at Asansol, Raniganj and other places. He considers that the only remedy is to close these depôts. The Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur also reports that illicit practices still go on, and that this is likely to continue so long as recruitment under Chapter III is permitted in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. Government recognises that the closing of these Divisions to recruitment by contractors is an ideal which should be kept in view, but that some time must elapse before it can be completely attained.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

619. There was a falling off in the receipts and an increase in the charges of the Inland Labour Transport Fund during the year under review. They were Rs. 13,165 and Rs. 23,420 respectively as against Rs. 16,918 and Rs. 20,872 in the previous year. The decrease in the receipts was due to the falling off in the number of emigrants registered and of licenses issued to contractors and recruiters.

Medical Institutions.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of Charitable Dispensaries and Hospitals under the Government of Bengal and the Calcutta Medical Institutions for the year 1908. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Public Health.]

Calcutta hospitals and dispensaries.

620. The new paying-patients' block at the Presidency General Hospital called the Woodburn Ward, which is a magnificent building furnished at great cost, was opened by the late Lieutenant-Governor Sir Andrew Fraser on the 23rd July 1908. Gas was installed throughout the buildings of the Campbell Hospital. An electric lift was placed in the Medical College Hospital, the outdoor department of which was provided with an electric annexe for the working of the X-ray apparatus, at a cost of Rs. 18,685. Improvement of the small-pox wards at the Campbell Hospital was also sanctioned by Government.

The nursing arrangements in the Campbell, Howrah, Mayo and Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospitals were generally satisfactory. The quality of the nurses has improved recently but it cannot be said that it is yet as satisfactory as in Europe. In the Presidency General Hospital and the Medical College Hospital group, this important work is done by nurses connected with the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution. In the former the nursing is favourably reported on, while in the latter a special Committee was appointed to enquire into the Principal's complaints of defective supervision, and, on their report, changes have been sanctioned which have placed the nursing arrangements on a satisfactory footing.

As in 1907, there were 17 public institutions at work. The accommodation provided was adequate in all except the Medical College Hospital where extra beds had to be provided and the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, in which overcrowding will be relieved when the proposed new surgical block is built. The number of in-door patients was 28,456 against 28,721 in 1907, a decrease attributable to the improvement in public health, which is also manifested in the fall of the death-rate from 37·6 to 32·6 per mille. Six institutions exhibited a decrease in the number of in-patients while in six there was an increase, the remaining five being unaffected. The notable increase of 622 occurred in the Medical College Hospital and is attributed to the growing popularity of the institution. The falling off in 1908 in the number of patients in the Howrah General Hospital was due to the transfer of native cholera cases to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Sulkhea, which is maintained by the Howrah Municipality. The Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital showed a falling off of 352, and at the Campbell Hospital there were 293 fewer patients owing to the general healthiness of the year. The number treated at the Presidency General Hospital was practically the same as last year but would have been much larger had not the main block been closed for six months for quadrennial repairs. At the Eden Hospital the number of maternity cases rose from 771 in 1907 to 841 in 1908, and not a single case of septicæmia originated in the hospital. There were 1,562 surgical operations including several cases of abdominal surgery and other serious operations, against 1,607 in 1907.

The aggregate number of out-door patients was 298,448, an increase of 10,408 on the figures of 1907. The Medical College Hospital had the largest increase, viz., 7,066 patients.

Diseases treated.

621. Cholera, fever, small-pox, dysentery, diarrhœa and plague were less prevalent in Calcutta than in 1907. There were 1,154 admissions of cholera cases in comparison with 1,215 in the previous year. Plague cases fell from 300 to 92. Of beri-beri there were 25 cases with 5 deaths against 30 and 7 respectively in 1907. Twenty-six cases, of which one died, were classified as epidemic dropsy. Though the mortality from small-pox fell from 479 to 258, an epidemic in a virulent form was foreseen in 1909, and precautionary measures were taken. Under the head of tubercular diseases 2,361 cases were reported against 2,477 in 1907. The decrease chiefly occurred in the Campbell Hospital (126). More care is now taken in the registration of such cases in hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Income.

622. The total income of all the institutions excluding the Police Hospital and the Dockyard Dispensary fell to Rs. 18,24,139 from Rs. 18,40,103 in 1907. Government contributed Rs. 11,37,652 or 62·36 per cent. against Rs. 13,12,957 and 72·28 per cent. in 1907. The decrease was mainly in cost of buildings. Subscriptions from Europeans amounted to Rs. 14,704 against Rs. 12,573 in 1907, while the amount contributed by natives rose from Rs. 16,440 in 1907 to Rs. 1,06,056 in 1908 owing to donations of Rs. 30,000 each from Rai Siuprasad Jhunjhunwala Bahadur, Babus Hari Das Gokul Das and Musaji Ahmad Saliji for the construction of the wards for Indian paying-patients at the Medical College Hospital and a sum of Rs. 10,000 paid by Babu Behari Lal Mitter of Bagbazar which was credited to the building-fund of the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital.

Expenditure.

623. The total expenditure excluding the amount invested was Rs. 16,14,234 against Rs. 16,78,994 in 1907. Building charges decreased by Rs. 1,19,512; on the other hand cost of diet rose by Rs 16,362 owing to the dearness of food-grains and a higher daily average number of patients.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Number of dispensaries.

624. At the close of the year 572 dispensaries were in operation (a decrease of 15) of which 69 were State dispensaries, 271 local fund, 49 private aided, 121 private non-aided and 62 railway institutions. An itinerant dispensary with head-quarters at Orara was established by Government for the benefit of khas-mahal tenants in the Bhadrak subdivision of Balasore and was proving popular. Of floating dispensaries, that at Cuttack was successful, but one in the Sundarbans tract of the 24-Parganas failed to effect much good, and it has been decided to replace it by a dispensary on land.

Number of patients.

625. The number of in-door patients treated presents a strange coincidence, the figures being 63,379 or exactly the same as in 1907. The general health of the Province, though bad in the early part of the year, was exceptionally good during the last six months. Fever, which was responsible for so much of the unhealthiness in the previous year, was far less prevalent, and under the circumstances it is gratifying that the number treated in hospitals was maintained in the year under review.

The number of out-door patients (3,965,101) exhibits a decrease of 48,345 on the figures of 1907, and is in keeping with the improvement in general health in some districts of the Province. The number treated at Police Hospitals fell from 23,324 in 1907 to 22,640. The percentage of the population treated in all hospitals and dispensaries, including those of Calcutta, was 8·75 against 8·82 in 1907 and 11·11 in the United Provinces where famine prevailed.

Diseases treated.

626. The prolonged drought experienced during the year resulted in some districts in satisfactory health conditions, particularly in the last half of 1908, but the death-rate of the Province rose from 37·72 to 38·36 per mille. The number of deaths from cholera which prevailed in epidemic form in Balasore, Gaya and Manbhum rose from 201,899 in 1907 to 265,214. The number of cholera cases treated in dispensaries rose to 16,116, a gratifying increase of 3,132. The number of cases of small-pox which prevailed with great virulence in the Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions and in Saran, which was treated in dispensaries, was only 1,026, but that was an increase of 103 cases. As usual malarial fever accounted for the largest number of patients, viz., 970,051 against 1,072,854 in the previous year. The mortality from malaria was smaller than usual in the Burdwan, Presidency and Bhagalpur Divisions but abnormally high in Cuttack. There were similar small decreases in the numbers treated for skin diseases (514,533) and for worms (329,538), while cases of plague which prevailed in a very mild form, probably owing to the notable measures taken in Bihar to combat the disease, fell from 2,133 in 1907 to 597 in 1908. As might be expected with scarcity of water and ordinary food-grains, bowel-disorders rose by 9,335 cases to 177,043 patients. There was a large rise in the number of surgical operations to 171,628. The number of female patients slightly decreased. The chief measures against epidemics were the deputation with satisfactory results of 17 Civil Hospital Assistants for a malarial fever

campaign in the Presidency Division during five months and the distribution of quinine in tablet form.

627. The total income of dispensaries in class I (State public), III (local fund) and IV (private aided) was Rs. 13,12,540 against Rs. 12,15,892 in 1907. Government gave larger monetary assistance in the year under eview, the amount being Rs. 1,69,843 or 12·94 per cent. against Rs. 1,27,082 or 10·45 in 1907. The increase was mainly due to special grants for new buildings. For the improvements of the district medical institutions Commissioners of Divisions also gave grants-in-aid from funds placed at their disposal to a total of Rs. 28,277 against Rs. 36,709 in the previous year. Income.

628. The total expenditure (excluding the sums invested) was Rs. 10,04,037 against Rs. 9,07,655 in 1907. The further large increase was chiefly due to the construction of new buildings, increased cost of diet owing to the abnormal rise in the price of food-grains, purchase of new beds and various other articles of hospital equipment, additions to the dispensary staff and increased expenditure on surgical instruments and appliances. Expenditure.

629. There are 11 leper asylums in the Province, of which one with 325 patients is situated at Gobra in Calcutta and is maintained at Government cost; while of the ten asylums in the mufassal, with about 1,282 leper patients, seven are maintained by the Mission to Lepers in India, two from private funds and one by a municipality aided by local subscriptions. The largest asylum is at Purulia where 614 beds are provided. During 1908 Government paid Rs. 22,888 towards the support of these district institutions and for new buildings. Rupees 1,000 was paid monthly to the Asylum at Purulia and Rs. 3,600, Rs. 1,872 and Rs. 1,458 per annum to those at Raniganj, Bankura and Bhagalpur, respectively. Leper asylums.

Eden Sanitarium.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for 1908.]

630. Admissions into the Eden Sanitarium numbered 545, consisting of 431 patients and 114 relatives and friends, compared with 490, 351 and 139 respectively in 1907. The number of patients, which is with one exception the largest on record, proves that the institution is appreciated. Number of admissions.

631. There was a decrease of Rs. 1,121-15 in fees in respect of medical attendance and operations. The total income of the year, however, so increased that it not only rescued the institution from its hitherto chronic state of bankruptcy, but also left a balance of Rs. 1,032-12-6 to be carried forward after clearing off the deficit of Rs. 1,421-8-8 with which the year opened. Funds.

632. The four free beds which were maintained for the benefit of convalescent patients from the Medical College Hospital and the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, were occupied throughout the season. The cost at third-class rates was Rs. 1,263. Three free cots were maintained—one by the Theo-Beryl Fund, one by the Children's Ministering League, and one by the Bella Cot Fund, the last being a donation of Mrs. Shräger. In addition to these free beds, Rs. 500 is allotted by the Committee to be expended on free beds at the discretion of the Superintendent. One free bed was utilized by the Superintendent at a cost of Rs. 60. The rule whereby commercial firms, banks, etc., can obtain a reduction in the rates charged for their European assistants, if admitted to the Sanitarium, was taken advantage of by one firm. Donations and subscriptions amounted to Rs. 350 besides Rs. 261-5-3 from collections by the Hospital Sunday Fund, the total income from charitable sources being thus Rs. 611-5-3 against an expenditure on free beds of Rs. 1,323. Free beds.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for 1908. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Public Health.]

633. The year opened with 852 lunatics under confinement in the asylums. Admissions numbered 168, a decrease of 13, and re-admissions 17, an increase of 2. The number discharged was 107 against 104 in 1907. Population. Admissions and Discharges.

Deaths numbered 65 so that the number of detentions at the close of the year was 865, an excess of 13 over 1907. The accommodation provided was ample as space was available for 761 males and 202 females or a total of 963 patients, while the daily average number under detention was 851·33 and the maximum number confined on any one night was 893.

Sickness.

634. The increase in the number of admissions to hospital from 555 in 1907 to 746 in 1908 is ascribed to the fact that cases of indifferent health and trifling ailments received regular treatment in hospital instead of in the quarters of the inmates, as was formerly the practice. Cases of fever decreased from 185 in 1907 to 149 in 1908 and there was no death from this cause. There was also a notable decrease in the number of cases of bowel-complaints, especially at Patna where it is reported to have been due to an improvement in the supply of drinking-water. Phthisis was unfortunately prevalent as usual in the Berhampore Asylum; special arrangements have been made there for the separate treatment and segregation of tubercular patients. Seven cases of leprosy were under treatment at Berhampore of which two ended fatally. A proposal to construct a separate ward for leper lunatics is under consideration.

Death-rate.

635. The death-rate calculated upon the daily average strength was 7·63 per cent. against 8·94 per cent. in 1907, and was below the rate recorded in other Provinces, and also less than in County and Borough Asylums in England in 1907. The great reduction in mortality, and the absence of any epidemic are attributable chiefly to the numerous sanitary, structural and other improvements recently effected in the asylums. Not a single case of cholera occurred in the Patna Asylum during 1908.

Finance.

636. The total expenditure on lunatic asylums amounted to Rs. 1,64,311 against Rs. 1,62,593 in 1907. The cost of diet increased to Rs. 75,727 representing a rise of Rs. 11,648, which was due mainly to the abnormally high prices of food-grains and partly to the larger daily number of lunatics at Berhampore, as well as to the issue of food of better quality to the inmates at Patna. The cost per inmate was Rs. 88-15-3 against Rs. 75-7-3 in 1907, while the average cost per lunatic was Rs. 179-10-1 against Rs. 169-7-11 in the previous year. The charges for superintendence fell from Rs. 27,976 in 1907 to Rs. 24,176. Receipts from paying-patients amounted to Rs. 13,692 and exhibited a decline of Rs. 1,266. The amendment of Act XXXVI of 1858 whereby patients can be taken from Calcutta without an injunction of the High Court, accounts for the increase in the number of paying-patients at Berhampore from 4 in 1907 to 9.

Central Asylums.

637. The project for the construction of a Central Lunatic Asylum for Indian lunatics at Ranchi received the sanction of the Government of India and detailed plans of the buildings have been nearly completed. A similar scheme for the establishment at Ranchi of a Central Asylum for European lunatics from Northern India, was under the consideration of the Government of India.

Lunatic Asylums Act and Rules.

638. The question of amending the Lunatic Asylums Act was considered and suggestions were submitted to the Government of India. The revision of the rules under the Act, which were framed so long ago as 1878, was in progress.

Sanitation.

[Forty-first Annual Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, 1908.]

Important sanitary works in towns and rural areas.

639. The total cost of sanitary works executed during the year 1907-1908 by Municipalities, District Boards, Government and private individuals, amounted to Rs. 8,82,909 against Rs. 8,56,196 during the previous year. The following, each of which cost Rs. 5,000 or more, were the most important:—

	Rs.
(1) Construction of drains in Howrah	39,482
(2) Ditto ditto in the Tittaghar Municipality including cost of land required for the purpose	42,568
(3) Purchase of land for the extension of the night-soil trenching ground in the Cossipore-Chitpur Municipality ...	13,670
(4) Erection of an iron-shed and culverts in the skinning ground at Kristopur in the Cossipore-Chitpur Municipality ...	5,695

	Rs.
(5) Erection of an iron-shed and culverts in the Gaukhana of the Manicktola Municipality	5,387
(6) Construction of a *pucka* ghat for public use on the banks of the Ganges at Bhatpara by Lt.-Col. T. W. Clark, late Chairman of the Municipality	20,000
(7) Laying of pipes for a filtered water-supply in the Tollygunj Municipality	6,270
(8) Excavation of a tank in village Koroich in the Shahabad district by one Ram Lall Sonar, a private individual ...	10,100
(9) Restoring to its old bed the flow of the Gerna river in the Bhagalpur district	9,203
(10) Removal of a crowded *basti* round the Pilgrim Hospital at Gaya	23,000
(11) Construction of an infectious ward in the Cholera Hospital at Gaya to accommodate small-pox and plague patients	5,500
(12) Construction of drains in the Puri Municipality ...	6,115

640. The dredging of the Bhagirathi at its take-off from the Ganges was also undertaken by the Public Works Department as a sanitary measure and apparently improved considerably the water-supply of the important towns and numerous villages in the neighbourhood, which in former years suffered very severely from cholera. **Dredging of the Bhagirathi.**

641. Several samples of effluents from septic tanks were examined at the laboratory and were often found to be below the required standard of purity. The Special Inspector of Factories also observed that the working arrangements of these installations were in some cases defective. To guard against the inefficient working of these tanks the appointment of an Inspector of Septic Tanks has been sanctioned by Government. **Septic tanks.**

642. Sanitary and medical precautions were taken at all important fairs and religious festivals. In Puri, which is visited by large numbers of pilgrims almost all the year round, great interest was taken by the Municipality and by the Lodging-house Act authorities in the preservation of public health during the fairs. Additional sweepers were appointed to clean the public and private latrines, all the wells were disinfected and buckets and ropes were supplied to all the public ones for drawing water, and *doolies* were kept ready at several places for the removal of sick persons and dead bodies. Great attention was also paid to the sanitary arrangements in the various lodging-houses. In this way cholera was kept in check, and there were fewer deaths from it during the *Dol* and *Rath Jatra* festivals. The *Ganga Saugar mela* in the 24-Parganas began on the 13th January and lasted for three days. It was attended by about 30,000 people, but only two stray cases of cholera, both ending fatally, occurred amongst them. The Sonepore fair, which is perhaps the largest in the Province, commenced on the 1st November and continued till after the bathing day which was on the 8th. The attendance, though not so large as in previous years, was estimated at 400,000, but as a result of the sanitary and conservancy arrangements made, the general health of the fair was very good and only three cases of cholera occurred. At Caragola fair in Purnea satisfactory sanitary arrangements were made under the supervision of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Bihar and Chota Nagpur Circle, and it passed off without any casualty from any disease. On the occasion of the *Ardhodoy Yog* bathing festival on 2nd February special precautions were taken at almost all municipalities on the banks of the Ganges with satisfactory results to themselves. **Sanitary supervision at fairs and festivals.**

Vaccination.

[The Report on Vaccination in Bengal for the year 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Public Health.]

643. In view of the steady increase in the mortality from small-pox, which amounted to 35,966, or nearly double the average of the five years 1903—1907, which was 18,750, it is satisfactory to note that vaccination continued to make progress. The total number of operations performed during 1908-1909 in the Province, excluding the tributary State of Pal Lahera **Vaccination.**

in the Orissa Division, was 2,241,576, of which 304,707 were re-vaccinations, against 2,058,371 original cases and 190,081 re-vaccinations during 1907-1908. The appointment of a Special Inspector in Orissa led to a gratifying increase in the number of operations performed. A severe outbreak of small-pox occurred in Calcutta during the cold weather, and as a result, 82,079 persons submitted to vaccination, compared with 31,155 during the preceding year.

The Poisons Act.

[Report on the Working of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, during 1908.]

Working of the Poisons Act.

644. The Poisons Act was in force in the Province throughout the year. Rules under sections 2 and 4 were, however, not issued until February and the rules under section 4 were revised in July. Local officers were directed to make known the requirements of the rules throughout their districts, to ensure that licenses are issued promptly to persons desirous of selling the poisons to which the rules apply, and to make arrangements for systematic inspection as to the enforcement of the law.

Provisional licenses were issued in six districts only (24-Parganas, Nadia, Patna, Shahabad, Hazaribagh and Darjeeling, the total number being 29. Only in three districts (Burdwan, Patna, and Singhbhum) were prosecutions for breach of the rules instituted, the number of cases being 11.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 306—314.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1908-1909. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Financial.

645. There was a continuance of the educational activity which was primarily prompted by the Simla Conference of 1901, and a further marked increase in expenditure. The demands of the Education Department continued to grow, but increasing difficulty was felt on the part of the Government in meeting them. The total expenditure from all sources on institutions of all kinds rose from 110¼ lakhs in 1905-1906 to 144½ lakhs in 1908-1909, and within the same period the expenditure from provincial revenues increased from 34 lakhs to 49¾ lakhs, while within the last two years there was an increase of 13 lakhs in expenditure from the same source. Emphasis is laid in the report upon the need for further provision of funds, as well as for a clearly defined policy in the Department as to the proportion of the total expenditure which the main heads of education should receive.

Controlling agencies.

646. The temporary appointment of a second Assistant Director to assist the Director of Public Instruction was made, as the work of the head-quarters office continued to expand. While there was less work in the preparing of new schemes, there was more work in carrying into operation the schemes already sanctioned. The proposal to create a new class of District Inspectors of Schools to be graded in the Provincial Educational Service, who will replace Deputy Inspectors of Schools is for the present in abeyance. In the interests of Muhammadan education, it has been decided that in each Inspector's Division a Muhammadan officer, who should be an Assistant Inspector or a specially selected Deputy Inspector, should be appointed to supervise Muhammadan education exclusively. As regards the agency for the inspection of primary education, the aim hitherto was to increase the number of Sub-inspectors so that they might have units of reasonable size to control. A sufficient advance having now been made in this direction, efforts are henceforth to be directed towards the improvement of the teaching staff.

Primary education for boys.

647. The number of boys under instruction was about 1,200,000, representing 26·5 per cent. of the total male population of school-going age. The total number of primary schools for boys was 34,472, or an excess of 518 over the previous year. The revised courses of study for primary schools will be introduced with effect from 1910. For the guidance of the teachers, who are often untrained men, a junior teacher's manual is being prepared at state expense by a body of expert educationists. Attention is drawn in the report to the fact that the allowance of gurus in primary schools is still inadequate, and that while the stipendiary system has brought the schools under better control, it has at the same time furnished an excuse to parents and guardians to diminish the payments from private sources which form a part of the traditional income of primary school teachers. The problem appears to Government to be a two-fold one—the quality of the teachers must be improved, and at the same time it is necessary that the teachers in primary schools should receive a living wage. To achieve the first object, the system of guru-training schools has been extended throughout the Province. The advance must, however, be slow, as much leeway has to be made up. A contrast is drawn in the report between the contributions of the Bombay and Calcutta Municipalities

to primary schools. The Bombay Municipality spent 1⅓ lakh and possessed 93 schools of its own, whereas the Calcutta Corporation had not a single school of its own, and spent only ½ lakh on primary education. After the close of the year, however, the Calcutta Corporation, decided to appoint a sub-committee to meet the representatives of the Education Department and to discuss the subject of the control of education.

Secondary education.

648. The proposals which were made by the Bengal Government for the improvement of secondary education, and which involve a recurring expenditure of 16 lakhs, were still in abeyance. Something was, however, done to stimulate education in high schools through the inspection of these schools by officers of the Education Department on behalf of the University. The Committee appointed to submit proposals for the introduction of a school final examination alternative to the Matriculation Examination, held several meetings, and acting under its guidance different sub-committees worked out syllabuses in particular subjects. It is reported that a complete scheme of five alternative groups is ready, though it remains to construct the machinery for holding the examination. The fact that pupils in high schools increased by over 2,000 and expenditure by Rs. 1,43,000, while at the same time the number of high schools decreased by two, is also evidence of more efficient working on the part of the existing schools. Good results were achieved by the experiment of appointing an officer of the Indian Educational Service as Headmaster of the Ranchi Zilla School. An advanced high school is preferable to an inferior second grade college, but the natural reluctance to lower the status of an existing college must be respected. It is to be deplored that there was a tendency to prefer a bad education in middle English schools to a good education in middle vernacular schools.

Collegiate education.

649. In collegiate education, there was a steady advance in all directions to conform with the new regulations of the Calcutta University. Improvements took place in staff, buildings, science equipment, libraries and hostels. Since the close of the year the sanction of the Secretary of State has been received to the proposals for increasing the staff of Government colleges in accordance with the requirements of the new regulations of the Calcutta University. Eight additional appointments will be created in the Indian Educational Service. Governing bodies for Government colleges were re-constituted at the instance of the University, and invested with independent, though limited, powers in respect of the responsible management of the institutions. Among Government colleges, much was done in the Presidency College for the more effective teaching of science subjects. In the Patna College, the chief progress made during the year was the establishment of a proper residential system. In the Krishnagar College, the number of students fell to 86, and the report of a committee which was appointed in April 1909 to advise as to the future of the college is under the consideration of Government. The net annual cost to Government per student in Government colleges varies from Rs. 145 per student in the Presidency College to Rs. 830 per student in the Sanskrit College.

Muhammadan education.

650. There was an increase in the total number of Muhammadans under instruction of nearly 27,000 over the figures of the preceding year. The number of pupils in secondary schools is nearly 17,000, but there are only 300 students in Arts Colleges. Much valuable work was done by Mr. Earle in initiating schemes for the improvement of madrasas and the improvement of maktabs. A scheme for the improvement of madrasas was matured, and arrangements were made for the detailed inspection of all the private madrasas in the Province. The scheme for the improvement of maktabs was completed, but it is only possible to bring it gradually into effect. There were 970 students at the Calcutta Madrasa at the end of 1908-1909. The Elliott Madrasa Hostel is able to provide for 119 boarders. Measures were taken to provide another hostel to accommodate 100 students, and towards this the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca gave a liberal donation of Rs. 25,000.

Professional and technical education.

651. The schemes for the University Law College in Calcutta and the Patna Law College were brought into full working order after the end of the year. Pleadership classes have been revived at Hooghly, Krishnagar and Cuttack, and also in connexion with the University Law College and the Government Law College at Patna.

652. At present there are 31 students at the Bethune College, which is the only Female Arts College in the Province, and 163 at the collegiate school. There were at the end of the year 139,245 girls under instruction in primary schools. While on the one hand the number of girls in purely girls' schools decreased, on the other hand the number of girls in boys' schools increased. One method which was found useful for increasing the number of girls under tuition and which is worthy of encouragement, is to make the payment of stipends conditional upon the attendance of a minimum number of girl-pupils, but this plan has its disadvantages, since the girl-pupils may remain present in the school, but may be altogether excluded from instruction. The Training College at Patna for instructing female teachers in the art of teaching was opened in January 1909, and a Lady Principal recruited in England arrived in February. Many difficulties were encountered in the management, not the least of which was the entire absence of fit material for training. Nevertheless it is reported that the earnestness of the women students and their eagerness to learn were remarkable. The obstructions to any real advance in female education are the lack of teachers, the unwillingness of many parents to pay for the education of their daughters, and the early age at which girls are taken away from the schools. The Calcutta Training Class for the training of Hindu female teachers was opened as a provisional arrangement in the first instance, but it is reported that only four students were in residence. Female education.

653. The total expenditure on the education of Europeans exhibits an excess of over 3½ lakhs over the expenditure of 1907-08, but 2⅓ lakhs of the increase came from private sources. The Code for European Schools in Bengal was revised after prolonged discussion in 1908, and during the year under review interest centred in the regrading of the schools in accordance with the provisions of the Code. Since the close of the year it has been found necessary, on account of certain representations made to Government, to suspend the operation of the Code, which was to have come into force from the 1st January 1910. In connexion with the education of Europeans, Government is disposed to agree with the view that any education which from the beginning looks beyond the age of 14 in planning a systematic course of study, is secondary education. The successes at the Cambridge Senior Local Examination numbered 20 compared with 22 in the previous year. In the departmental high school examination, 16 passed against 18 in the previous year. European education.

654. The David Hare Training College, which was opened in July 1908, experienced many difficulties as regards sufficiency of staff and accommodation, but these difficulties have been surmounted to some extent by the zeal of the Principal. It is regrettable that no students, other than teachers in Government schools, joined to undergo a course of training. The Patna Training College was started for Bihari students in October 1908 on modest and experimental lines. The vernacular training schools, of which there are nine in the Province, suffered from the lack of competent instructors and of accommodation. These difficulties, especially the former, are such as only time can remedy. The course of studies was revised, the period of training being extended from two to three years, and stipends will be increased in value. Training of teachers.

The guru-training schools form the lever by which in time the whole fabric of primary education may be raised, and considerable expenditure was incurred during the year upon them. Out of 191 such schools to be constructed, 54 have been completed, 50 have not yet been commenced, and the construction of the remainder is proceeding. At the end of the year there were 3,190 gurus under instruction, and 741 of them obtained certificates of competence after a two years' course. But the efforts of Government in the direction of improving the quality of teachers for primary schools seemed destined to be frustrated to some extent by the fact that, after their period of instruction, many gurus do not return to their duties as teachers.

655. The hostel system is gradually advancing. The engineering institutions at Sibpur and Bankipore are now entirely residential. The Calcutta mess scheme continued to make large demands on Government. As regards schools, the same success was not achieved as in the case of colleges. It is true that board and lodging were furnished, but, in many cases, under conditions which were unsatisfactory and which did not promote discipline. During the Physical and moral training.

year the Government of India approved in principle the grant of free quarters to teachers attached to hostels of schools. In connexion with physical training in schools and colleges, while there was much for congratulation, yet there was also a regrettable tendency to professionalism, especially in connexion with football, and an unhealthy emulation which showed a lack of the true spirit of sport. Every endeavour is being made to check these undesirable tendencies. As regards discipline in the best sense of the word, it has still to be learnt in many schools. There is at present only an acquiescent discipline, that is to say, there is not an active revolt from discipline, but at the same time there is not so much as there ought to be of respect for constituted authority, and of the true spirit of active co-operation with authority.

Reformatory Schools.

[Annual Report on the Reformatory Schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh for the year 1908. Statistics of British India, Part VII.—Educational.]

Changes in administration.

656. During the year the amalgamation of the two Reformatory Schools which had long been under the consideration of Government, became an accomplished fact. The buildings at Alipore were altogether unsuitable for the purpose of a reformatory school. The accommodation was insufficient, and it was estimated that the alterations would cost three lakhs. The existing building, moreover, was urgently required by the Jail Department for use as a prison for juvenile offenders. There had been considerable discussion as to the site of the amalgamated school, but it was finally decided to locate it for the present in the Hazaribagh School. The sanction of the Government of India was accorded in February 1908 to the closing of the Alipore School and the transfer of its inmates to Hazaribagh; and Mr. G. A. Davis, Superintendent of Jail Manufactures, was then placed on special duty to work out a detailed scheme for the amalgamation of the schools. The first batch of boys was despatched from Alipore on the 29th July, and the last batch left on the 13th September. To accommodate the increased population, the ground-floor of three blocks in the Hazaribagh School was converted into dormitories. The school buildings, exclusive of the hospital, can now accommodate 416 boys. The arrangements for sanitation and water-supply were by no means satisfactory when the amalgamation was effected, but steps have since been taken to remedy the defects. Mr. Davis remained on special duty in connexion with the amalgamated school till the end of the year.

Number admitted and discharged.

657. The number of boys admitted to the schools, which had risen from 95 in 1905 to 144 in the following year and 146 in 1907, fell to 125 in the year under review. As usual, the case of each boy admitted was scrutinized by the Board of Management, to see whether the provisions of the law for the release of youthful offenders might not suitably be applied to the case, and 22 boys were released on the recommendation of the Board. Six hundred and eighty-three youthful offenders were released by the Courts on probation under section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, compared with 396 in 1907 and 282 in 1906. The Lieutenant-Governor notes with satisfaction the steady increase in the use that is made of this section. Forty-four boys were discharged after admonition, or made over to guardians, under section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act, as against 45 in the preceding year.

Health and conduct of inmates.

658. The health of the boys was on the whole satisfactory. The total number admitted to hospital was 199, as compared with 232 in the two schools in 1907. Only two deaths occurred among a daily average population of 391. Malarial fever and eye disease were prevalent at Hazaribagh. Two cases of cholera also occurred while the disease was raging in the neighbourhood, but both patients recovered. The general discipline of the boys was excellent. Fifty-seven boys were punished in the two schools as against 113 in the preceding year, but whipping, which was awarded as punishment on five occasions in 1907, was not inflicted in any case during the year under review.

Education.

659. Reading, writing, and arithmetic were formerly taught for three hours daily—up to the lower primary standard at Alipore, and to the upper primary standard at Hazaribagh. Advantage was taken of the opportunity afforded by the amalgamation to introduce a new system. The boys are now

classified into three groups. Those under 14 years of age receive instruction up to the lower primary standard for three hours in the morning, and those between 14 and 16 years for three hours in the afternoon. Boys over 16 years of age are exempted from attendance at school, and spend the entire working hours of the day at the industries which they are learning. The object of this innovation is to accustom the boys to some extent to the hours of work which they will experience after their discharge. The results of the annual examination were on the whole satisfactory. Sixty-eight boys studied up to the lower primary standard; 23 of these were discharged before the examination; and, of the 45 who appeared at the examination, 17 passed in the first division and 16 in the second. Two hundred and forty-four boys appeared at the junior class examinations, of whom 56 passed in the first and 57 in the second division. Examinations were also held in agriculture and in the industries in which the boys are trained, with the satisfactory result that out of 240 boys who appeared, 163, or 68 per cent., passed creditably.

In pursuance of the policy of giving the institution the character of a school rather than of a jail, the boys are encouraged to interest themselves in physical drill, gymnastics, and athletics generally. Athletic sports are held annually at which prizes are awarded. The school band, which practises for three hours a day, has proved a strong incentive to good order, and has exercised a remarkable humanising influence. A certain period is devoted daily to physical drill and gymnastics, while fire-drill and classes for instruction in first aid to the injured are regularly held.

Subsequent history.

660. During the three years up to 1907, 336 boys were released from the two schools. Fifty-one of these boys were untraced. Of the remainder, 219 were found to be leading honest lives, 54 have been again convicted, 4 are reported to be of bad character, and 8 have died.

The best means of maintaining supervision over discharged boys is a subject which has for some time engaged the attention of Government. Towards the close of the year two experienced officers of the Education Department were appointed as Special Deputy Inspectors of Schools to visit discharged boys. Their duties are (1) to make themselves acquainted with the past history of discharged and licensed boys; (2) to visit such boys in a friendly way as often as possible; and (3) to help the regular officers of the Education Department in keeping watch over released boys and in assisting them to obtain employment. A scheme by which regular allowances and gratuities will be paid for three years after their release to boys who behaved well while in the school and who continue to lead honest lives, was sanctioned during the year, and has since come into force.

Training in industries and agriculture.

661. Of 125 boys who were taught agriculture, 75 are following that occupation. Two hundred and eleven boys were taught various trades and handicrafts, but only 69 of them are pursuing the occupation in which they received instruction. The proportion, however, has gradually risen since 1904 from one in four to one in three.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library.

662. The number of publications registered and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1908 was 3,417 against 2,995 in the previous year. The increase, which is 14·09 per cent., is attributable to increased literary activity, rather than to improved registration. Proceedings taken in 222 cases of evasions of the law of book-registration which were reported by the Inspector-General of Registration, resulted in the recovery of books in 58 cases. Of the publications received, 2,341 were books, of which 1,903 were original publications and 438 were re-publications or translations. The remainder, the number of which exhibits an increase of 174, represents 154 distinct periodicals, of which 79 were in Bengali, 50 in English, and 7 in Hindi.

Subjects treated.

663. The books comprised new works on a large variety of subjects. As regards Art and Industry, the industrial activity which was a prominent feature of the year, was fully reflected in the current literature. Of an unprecedented number of biographies, the majority were life-stories of pious

and philanthropic persons, or of religious and social reformers. In Drama, *Nur Jahan* is the only work of real importance, the rest, some of which dealt with politics, possessing little merit. The bulk of the Fiction consisted of the translation or adaptation of English or French detective stories, with a few social novels. The falling off in the quality of fiction is partly due to the increasing demand of the numerous vernacular magazines for short stories. Hindi is enriching itself by translations from Bengali. Laborious but rather uncritical attempts were made to write the history of Bengal in the light of modern research. Philosophical publications consisted mainly of attempts to popularise the study of Hindu philosophy. Poetry, apart from two good translations, consisted of lyrics. The new spirit is stimulating and giving a new direction to literary activity. Light literature which till recently occupied the attention of the best writers, is giving place to more serious subjects. Science, however, still receives no contribution worth mention from non-official sources.

Act XXV of 1867.

664. During the year there were 8 prosecutions under Act XXV of 1867 against 3 and 36 in the two preceding years. All were in Calcutta or Howrah, and convictions were obtained in seven cases.

The Native Press.

665. The number of vernacular newspapers at the close of the year was 84, a decrease of six. Twenty-one newspapers became defunct, and 15 new newspapers appeared, of which 9 were in Bengali, 3 in Hindi, 1 in Urdu and 2 in Uriya. Among the chief topics discussed by the native press during the year were the political changes in Turkey and Persia; the relation between the police and the public; the judgments in criminal trials of interest; the treatment in jail of prisoners and of the accused in the anarchist cases; the management of the affairs of the Calcutta University; sanitation in rural areas; the indigo disturbances in Champaran; the growing frequency of crimes and accidents on Indian railways; the deportations; the King's message; the Explosives Act, the Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act; and the nationalist movement and anarchism.

Literary Societies.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 321—322.

Arts and Sciences.

Technical and Industrial Instruction.

666. The monograph of Mr. J. G. Cumming, I.C.S., on Technical and Industrial Instruction in Bengal was submitted during the year. It sums up the position attained and indicates the lines of advance, but full effect cannot be given to the recommendations made in his report for some time. Since the close of the year the appointment of a Superintendent of Industry and Inspector of Technical and Industrial Education has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

The Serampore Weaving Institute.

667. A new departure of importance was the opening of the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore in January 1909. It is the outcome of efforts made in recent years to strengthen and revive the indigenous weaving industry by the introduction of such modern scientific appliances and methods as are suited to the condition of the handloom industry. The objects of the institute are to train men of fair education to become teachers of weaving, assistants to manufacturers or manufactures, and to give instruction in improved methods to artisans, adult working weavers and their sons. Land has been acquired for building an institute, but a promising beginning has been made in a hired house with 90 pupils, of whom 23 are boarders. It is proposed to open branches in different parts of the Province, and a start has been made in Sambalpur, while another branch is contemplated for the town of Bihar.

Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. Organization, etc.

668. Several large schemes were under consideration in respect of the Sibpur College. The Board of Visitors originally constituted in 1880 was enlarged and reconstituted. It held its first meeting in the end of March. The new rules for the Apprentice Engineering Department, which had been drafted by the

Principal, were approved of by the Board. The scheme for the technological classes was sanctioned by the Secretary of State, but he restricted it to the introduction of a research course in industrial chemistry. The new Joint Technical Examination Board conducted the overseer and sub-overseer examinations for the first time in March. Organisation and improvement are, however, hampered by the present uncertainty as to the removal of the Civil Engineering College to Ranchi. The College was inspected in February by the University, and action has been taken by the Principal in connection with the recommendations of the University Inspectors, as to the first of which, the constitution of a governing body, proposals have already been received by Government.

Number of students and expenditure.

669. The number of students in the Engineering Department increased from 94 and 100 in the two proceding years to 110. The total number of students of the College fell from 353 to 351, but 13 of the former number belonged to the agricultural classes which have since been abolished. The up-keep of the College cost Rs. 2,32,227, of which Rs. 2,13,219 fell on provincial revenues, as against Rs. 2,61,038 and Rs. 2,24,463 respectively in 1907-1908. About Rs. 6,000 was saved by the discontinuance in the last half of the year of the agricultural classes.

Mining classes at Sibpur.

670. There were 18 students in the mining classes at Sibpur, of whom 15 attended the first course and 3 the second. Seven candidates appeared at the examination in the first course and 5 passed. Of 2 candidates for the diploma in mining, 1 was successful. The department has gone beyond its original scope, which was for a theoretic course only. The mining camp was held in Jheria in January and February. The Students' Mining Society Journal has completed its third volume, and under the auspices of the Society five valuable papers are reported to have been read during the year.

Mining instruction in the mining districts.

671. During this the fourth year of the experimental five years for which the scheme for mining instruction in the mining districts was sanctioned, lecture rooms were completed and fitted up at all the four centres. The work is reported to have been interesting and successful.

Bihar School of Engineering.

672. At the Bihar School of Engineering, students (including 37 in the Amin class) numbered 185, compared with 192 (Amin class—44) in 1907-1908. Expenditure was Rs. 44,842, including Rs. 34,077 paid by Government, as against Rs. 43,183 and Rs. 32,396, respectively, in the preceding year. In the certificate examination for the Apprentice Department of the three Engineering Schools held on a common test by the new Joint Technical Examination Board, the percentages of successes were—

	Sub-Overseer.	Overseer.
Sibpur	42	18
Dacca	67	26
Patna	64	47

At the Public Works competition also, the only candidate which the Bihar School of Engineering is permitted to send up, took in each of the last two years the second place. The institution can now fairly claim equality with the Apprentice Department at Sibpur.

New privileges of the School.

673. The School which attained its majority under its present name will no longer be a dependency of the Patna College, but will henceforth be independently controlled by its own Headmaster as Principal. To encourage the students, the privileges of the School were extended—(*a*) two students who have passed the overseer examination, instead of one, are henceforth to be sent to the Public Works Department for practical training, and afterwards admitted to the competition for the post of overseer; (*b*) students who receive a year's training on actual work after passing the overseer examination, are to be eligible for appointment to the upper subordinate establishment of the Public Works Department, provided their certificates have been endorsed by the Engineer under whom they have served, to the effect that they have completed their practical training satisfactorily.

Cuttack Survey School.

674. There were 102 students in the Cuttack Survey School, being one more than last year. At the final examination, 48 appeared and 35 passed: 28 of the candidates were Uriyas or domiciled Bengalis, of whom 17 passed. The expenditure was Rs. 4,706, as against Rs. 4,923 in 1907-1908, and the amount received from fees was Rs. 1,343, as against Rs. 1,356 in the previous year.

Proposals for the re-organization of the survey courses at this Institution and at the Bihar School of Engineering were received after the close of the year.

Orissa Engineering School.

675. A most suitable site has been provisionally secured at Jobra for an Orissa Engineering School, and plans have been prepared, but financial exigencies at present prevent the scheme from going carried out.

"B" Final School Examination.

676. A separate Examination Board has been constituted for the "B" School Examination in place of the Joint Technical Examination Board. At the 1909 examination at five centres in Bengal, 25 candidates appeared, of whom 11 passed, the most successful schools being the Ranchi Industrial School and the Khulna Zilla School which secured 3 passes each out of 4 and 5 candidates respectively.

School Commercial Classes.

677. The "C" or commercial classes, which were carried on in five schools, were also introduced into the Calcutta Madrasa and the Church Missionary Society's High School, Krishnagar, but these classes appear on the way to extinction. Four out of nine candidates passed the examination.

Calcutta School of Art.

678. Of the 235 pupils at the Calcutta School of Art, 220 were Hindus, including 82 Brahmans. The fall in numbers from 254 is attributed to the effect of the small-pox epidemic. The expenditure was Rs. 27,192, and fee receipts were Rs. 5,464.

Government Commercial Classes.

679. Numbers have not increased in the Government commercial classes, but the work has gained in stability. In the day classes there were 48 students, —29 in the 1st year and 19 in the 2nd, as against 20 and 45 in 1907-1908. The evening classes were attended by 116 students. The number receiving instruction was thus 164.

The figures for examinations are, however, more encouraging. In 1907 there were 30 successful candidates in the Commercial Course Final (7) and Special Examinations: in 1908 there were 43 (Final Commercial 8). The number of candidates in 1908 was 70: in 1909 it is 111. A discouraging fact is that, on account of the absence of applicants, no evening classes could be formed for commercial law, banking and currency, or for political economy. On the other hand, there was an increase in the number of students for the evening shorthand and book-keeping classes.

Agricultural Classes.

680. The abolition of agricultural classes at Sibpur in November 1908, and the closing of the agricultural farm at the end of March, left higher agricultural training to be carried on at the Special Agricultural College contemplated at Sabaur under the control of the Director of Agriculture. Of the five selected High English Schools at which Special Agriculture Classes continue to be carried on, a fair measure of success was reported only from the Gaya Zilla School and the Dumraon Raj High School, success at Hazaribagh, Burdwan and Cuttack being so far very limited.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

681. The capital and crowning figures of the Asoka pillars at Rampurwa, in the district of Champaran, were removed and packed in cases for transit to the Imperial Museum at Calcutta. Progress was made with repairs to the *Dargah* of Makhdūm Shah at Manēr. At an expenditure of Rs. 9,217 the western portion of the compound of the Black Pagoda at Kanarak was cleared of stones and sand. The gateway to the ancient Fort at Palamau was thoroughly repaired, and so were the buildings at Triboni and at Pandua in the Hooghly district. Special repairs were executed to the inner surroundings of the *Dargah* of Bahram Sakka at Burdwan.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGE 325.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

682. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Bishop's Chaplain, the Registrar, 12 Chaplains of the Church of England, the Senior and Second Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 11 Ministers of the Additional Clergy Society or other Societies, and the Most Reverend Archbishop Brice Meuleman, S.J., and 11 priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for 1908. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Total of cases.

683. During the year 6,525 articles were examined representing a decrease of 948, which is due to the fact that 1,969 fewer samples of cocaine than in 1907 were sent for examination.

Analyses.

684. The total number of analyses in the general department was 2,487 against 3,493 in the preceding year. It is in this department that examinations of samples of cocaine are carried out. The number of samples of kerosine oil examined was 337, but all of them passed the test laid down under the Petroleum Act, VIII of 1899. Four samples of *ghi* were received for examination during the year, three of which were found to be adulterated with fat or vegetable oil. Of 18 samples of milk examined 11 were of good quality and seven diluted with water. Forty-nine samples of nitro-explosives were examined for the Inspector of Explosives and the Collector of Customs and one hundred and forty-nine samples of fulminate of mercury were examined for the Superintendent, Ammunition Factory, Dum Dum. Of drinking water and other waters sent by the various departments 137 were analysed quantitatively during the year against 192 in the previous year. At the request of the Director of Public Instruction the analysis of samples of water from mufassal Government schools was undertaken for the first time.

Medico-legal cases.

685. The number of medico-legal cases investigated was 2,122, an excess of 12 over 1907. There was an increase of stain cases, whereas under all other heads there was a slight decrease. The viscera of 770 human beings were examined during the year against 757 in 1907, poison being detected in 41·17 per cent. of cases as compared with 38·57 per cent. in the previous year. As usual, the most common poison used was opium, which was detected in 21·11 per cent. of the cases examined. Arsenic was next in frequency, with 8·09 per cent. of cases. The viscera of 381 cattle were examined against 366 in 1907, and poison was detected in 75·85 per cent. as compared with 72·67 per cent. in the previous year.

Veterinary Department.

[Annual Report of the Bengal Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1908-1909.]

686. The Bengal Veterinary College has been very ably managed. The bulk of the students naturally belong to Bengal, but 53 were from Eastern Bengal and Assam, and 10 from other Provinces. The high percentage (86·2) of the third-year students who passed the diploma examination testifies to the efficiency of the instruction. The health of the students was good throughout the year, but a hospital is being organized in connection with the hostels to provide against any outbreak of epidemic disease. The conduct of the students was excellent. A special grant for the preparation of an athletic ground was made, in order that the students may have increased facilities for athletic exercise. Bengal Veterinary College.

The expansion of the college has been again postponed for want of funds, but it was found possible to provide a sufficient amount for the Assistant Professor's quarters, so that he may always be in residence.

687. The provisions of the Glanders and Farcy Act were more strictly enforced during the year, and the efficient administration of the Act was not attended by any increase of friction. Horses, mules and donkeys in Calcutta increase in number every year and now amount to over 13,000 animals. During the year the staff was able to inspect 4,007 stables, in 90 of which glanders was detected, and the necessity for the work was shown by the fact that out of 296 animals seized, one-half had to be destroyed because they were suffering from contagious disease. The plan of paying small sums in compensation to those whose livelihood depends on the animals destroyed has been introduced, and it has been found that this greatly facilitates the administration of the Act at a very slight expense. Glanders and Farcy Act.

688. The Raymond Research Laboratory, which was commenced in 1906, now comprises a central building with a working room for the pathologist, a bacteriological laboratory, a chemical laboratory, a micro-photographic and drawing room and a dark-room. There is also a cellar for the storage of biological products; and attached to the establishment are *post-mortem* and inoculation rooms. Valuable work has been done in diagnosing diseases in connection with the Glanders and Farcy Act, in rabies, and in more obscure cases admitted into the hospital for treatment or *post-mortem* examination. To the Civil Veterinary Department assistance was rendered in the diagnosis of diseases in the mufassal. By means of the laboratory much valuable instruction has been given to the senior students about the infectious diseases of India. A post-graduate course for officers of the Department was organized. Research Laboratory.

689. The number of cases treated at the hospital exhibited a steady increase from 4,132 to 5,144. This expansion indicates the increasing confidence of the public in the institution, and affords enlarged facilities for the practical training of the students. Hospital.

690. Cases of *surra* and *dourine* were reported from the Sonthal Parganas. The Sonthal Parganas and Puri accounted for half the total mortality in the Province. The number of animals inoculated increased by 100 per cent. Civil Veterinary Department.

There were 27 veterinary dispensaries in Bengal, 2 new ones having been opened during the year, one at Chapra and the other at Bhagalpur. There has been a considerable decrease in the total number of patients admitted to the dispensaries during the year, and in many cases the residents appear to take only a lukewarm interest in them.

During the year the inspecting staff was considerably strengthened. There are now four Inspectors appointed under the reorganization scheme, and 52 Veterinary Assistants in the Province. The reorganization scheme has not yet been introduced so far as the Assistants are concerned. The replies of the local bodies consulted in the matter are at present under consideration.

691. Some progress was made in the distribution of bulls to public bodies and private individuals. An outbreak of rinderpest has unfortunately greatly weakened the Siri herd at Kalimpong. Breeding operations.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report by its Honorary Committee, 1908-1909.]

Death of the Superintendent.

692. The garden sustained a very heavy loss by the death of its Superintendent, Rai Rambrahma Sanyal Bahadur, C.M.Z.S., on the 13th October 1908.

Buildings.

693. The structural improvements of permanent interest undertaken during the year were—

(1) Extension of the boundary wall from the Kidderpore gate up to the rhinoceros enclosure.

(2) Reconstruction of the smaller duck house which had been completely wrecked by the storm of June 1907.

(3) The erection of an exit turnstile on the Orphanganj Road for the convenience of visitors desiring to make use of the tramcars.

Statistics.

694. The following is a comparative statement of the number of visitors and receipts from them for the last three years:—

	Number of visitors.	Receipts.		
		Rs.	A.	P.
1906-07	457,891	38,474	4	0
1907-08	504,397	37,731	15	0
1908-09	471,305	35,929	12	3

In 1907-1908 there was a large influx of visitors owing to the *Ardhodaya Yog* which brought a vast number of pilgrims from Eastern Bengal.

The public appreciation of the garden continues unabated, the average daily attendance being 1,296. In addition, a large number of children under four years of age and 1,963 school children attended by their teachers were admitted free. On the day of the Fancy Fair about 12,500 people, including complimentary ticket-holders, visited the garden.

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